

ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario



XXIV

Spring

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1999



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The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

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Incorporated in 1933 to preserve buildings and structures of architectural merit and places of natural beauty or interest



In This Issue

From the Editor	3
President's Message	3
Council News	4
AGM 1998 Minutes	5
Dorothy Wallace 1914 - 1998	8
Eric Arthur Colloquium	9
Feature story on the Sarnia Bridge, St. Marys	10
Branch Reports	12
1999 Conference Ad & Registration Form	18
The Advisory Board in 1998	22
News From & About ACO Members	28
HALP Update	28
Membership Application Form	29
Second Shipley Study Results Now In	30
Coming Events	31
Greetings from Minister Bassett	31
Hamilton Region Events	32
1999 Fundraising Campaign	33
List of Donors	34

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Sarnia Bridge railway viaduct, St. Marys

photo: Dan Schneider

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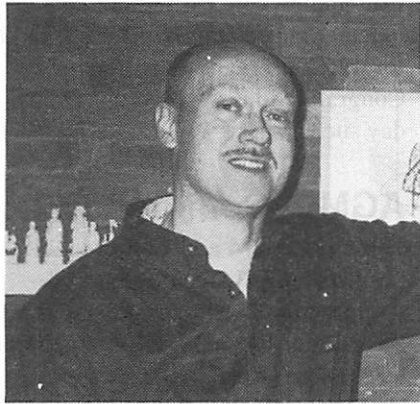
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The opinions expressed by our writers and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

From the Editor



In this issue we continue our look at heritage bridges. The cover of our last issue (Summer 1998) showed a bridge that had been demolished between the writing of the lead article about it and the time we went to press. The story of the Eden Mills Bowstring Bridge, now replaced with a two lane facsimile boasting non-functional arches, is a sad one indeed.

This time we have a "good news" bridge story — the conversion of an historic but obsolete railway viaduct in St. Marys into a breathtaking walking trail across the Thames River. In stark contrast to Eden Mills, here the Town Council not only took action to save the bridge but also gave its blessing to the citizen's group dedicated to adapting it to a new community use. In our feature article, the group's chair, Carol Robinson-Todd, tells us how this came about.

Kudos to all sides on this one. A small caveat: St. Marys Council has not yet designated the viaduct under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Having done so much to secure the bridge and right-of way, they should complete the process and accord the trail the formal recognition it so richly deserves. The reasons for designation should certainly include the history-making contributions of the concerned citizens of St.

Marys and area to this landmark project.

In 1964, in *Toronto, No Mean City*, Eric Arthur wrote: "So many of our ancient landmarks are lost that the architectural historian of even so recent a period as the 19th century must frequently feel that he is concerned with some ancient civilization like Pompeii or Herculaneum." Yes, except that one might argue that the ruins of those ancient cities are better preserved than our own "lost" cities!

The November colloquium (see page 9) and companion exhibition at the Market Gallery in Toronto were a timely celebration of the life and achievements of Arthur, one of the founders of the ACO. In an article entitled "Visionary architect had Toronto's past and future in view," (*The Globe and Mail*, January 9, 1999) critic Gary Michael Dault praises the Market Gallery show and curator Alec Keefer.

...The show is essentially a biography masquerading as an exhibition. It recounts the protean Arthur's multifaceted career by bringing together everything from his exquisite student drawings, made at the University of Liverpool, to vitrines full of the books he owned and the medals he won. In between are a vast number of archival photographs, often of great beauty showing the buildings Arthur and his students designed and the buildings and projects he saved (or tried to save).

Arthur represents the best kind of conservationist — one who, combining a passionate appreciation for the best of the past with a vision of the future, acts on both.

Dan Schneider ☞

President's Message



As we begin our 66th year as the provincial heritage organization dedicated to the protection of Ontario's architecture and places of natural beauty, thank you to all who have supported the ACO over the years. Your contribution has been invaluable.

Last fall we marked a milestone in the history of the ACO. We celebrated our 65th anniversary on November 14 with two memorable events: the Eric Arthur Colloquium, "Conservation in Context," held in collaboration with the University College Alumni Association, at University College, University of Toronto, and the 65th Anniversary Gala Dinner, held that evening at St. Lawrence Hall, thanks to Heritage Toronto and the City of Toronto. In addition, the ACO and the City of Toronto mounted an Eric Arthur retrospective exhibition at the Market Gallery.

We are grateful to the Honourable Isabel Bassett, Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, and to Michael Gravelle, MPP, and Rosario Marchese, MPP, culture critics for the opposition parties, for their good wishes on this occasion. To all who supported these anniversary events, especially to Margaret Goodbody and Alec Keefer and their respective committees, a sincere thank you.

We look forward this year to continuing and strengthening the many programs of the ACO. Among these is the Advisory Board, whose service particularly benefits the conservation cause in Ontario. We look forward to the revitalization of the Brant County Group, begun last September under the auspices of Heritage Cambridge. The ACO is also embarking on new initiatives to enhance our efforts to promote and preserve our built heritage. We are going "on line" – with the help of Leah Wallace we will have our new website ready for preview at the upcoming London Conference.

"Conserving Historic Industrial Architecture in Ontario," the ACO Conference, together with the Annual General Meeting, will be held at the old Middlesex County Courthouse on the weekend of April 16-18, 1999. The London Region Branch is hosting the event. Alison Brown and the conference committee have planned the weekend and arranged for tours. Christopher Borgal has prepared the conference program. The weekend promises to be an enjoyable and informative one, and we hope that you will join us.

As you may know, the ACO is a member of the Ontario Heritage Alliance, a body representing the commonality of interest among provincial heritage groups. The Alliance meets regularly, provides a forum for the sharing of concerns and advocates a united voice on behalf of heritage interests. While each organization has a specific focus, partnerships such as this strengthen the heritage community.

It is the generous dedication of many volunteers in regions across the province that ensures the ongoing work of the ACO. This year will bring fresh challenges – while our efforts may not always win the day, we are confident that together we will succeed in safeguarding and wisely utilizing many important heritage structures and landscapes.

Mary Angela Tucker

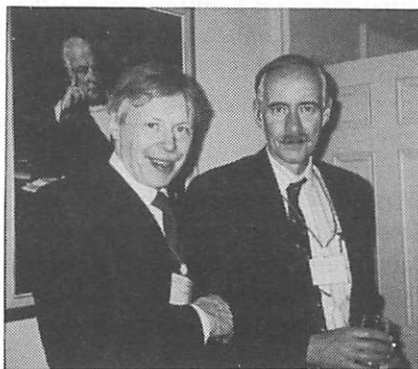
Council News

Gala Dinner '98



A.K. Sculthorpe, Mary Glendinning and Margaret Goodbody at the 65th Anniversary Gala Dinner. Photo: Catherine Seymour

Our 65th Gala Celebration was held on Saturday, November 14, at historic St. Lawrence Hall, an appropriate venue for the centenary celebrations of Professor Eric Arthur. He was a founding member of the ACO and helped save and restore the Hall. Bruce Kuwabara, partner of the architectural firm Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg, was the guest speaker. Mr. Kuwabara is currently working on renovations to the Toronto City Hall, another building closely associated with Eric Arthur, who was instrumental in setting up the international competition which selected the winning Viljo Revell design. In his presentation Mr. Kuwabara introduced the members to the work of his firm, including international as well as local projects.



Alan Seymour (left) and Ian McGillivray at the 65th Anniversary Gala Dinner. Photo: Catherine Seymour

About 120 people attended the event. The Dinner and Eric Arthur Colloquium held earlier the same day together raised approximately \$4,500 for the Conservancy's coffers. Congratulations to all who made the day such a success!

AGM & Conference '99

The 1999 AGM and Conference, "Conserving Historic Industrial Architecture in Ontario," hosted by the London Branch, will be held the weekend of April 16-18 at the Middlesex County Administration Building (the Old Court House), designed by John Ewart in 1827. The Book Fair will be repeated again as it has been popular in the past. Alison Brown and her committee have arranged for James Reaney Jr., of the editorial staff of the London Free Press, to give the keynote address. The dinner Saturday evening will be at the London Club, designed by architect George Durand in 1881-2. Sunday includes a choice of walking or bus tours in the afternoon. See the centre insert of this issue for details and registration form.

Street Smarts

Street Smarts is a joint venture between the ACO, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Heritage Canada Foundation, with funding from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation. Stephen Lauer, formerly with Heritage Canada, is consultant on the project. There are fifteen communities which will take advantage of this town centre regeneration project. Stephen Lauer and Alec Keefer started in Kemptville with the first workshop; next will be Penetanguishene. Other towns include Orillia, Owen Sound, Ancaster, Cayuga, and Seaforth. Note that as a result of changes in the Heritage Canada Foundation, the contact information for Stephen Lauer in the last issue of ACORN is no longer current.

Stephen can be reached at:
(519) 622-9362; fax: (519) 622-4035;
e-mail: stephen@prioritygrow.on.ca.

Advisory Board Chair

The Advisory Board is getting a higher profile with its new chair, Phillip Carter, architect. Phil has taken on his new role with enthusiasm and initiated some important new directions for the Advisory Board. He wants to ensure that the Board's reports are not shelved, but are publicized and sent to appropriate agencies and publications. He would like to take a more pro-active role by following up the reports and giving advice as to how best to use them in saving the building and ensuring its restoration and reuse. Another area of promotion for the Advisory Board's efforts is through lectures and talks. Phil has made himself available to the Windsor ACO and to Heritage Cambridge as well as helping with Whitehall, in Cobourg (see below). He would like other Board members to follow suit. To promote a better understanding of what the Board does, he, along with Mary Angela Tucker and Paul Dilse, has met with Jane Burgess, President of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants (CAPHC).

Whitehall, Cobourg

The oldest house in Cobourg is currently for sale, but with no offers. Whitehall, otherwise known as Burnham House, is important historically and architecturally. Phil Carter completed an Advisory Board report on Whitehall and recommended that it be retained and restored on its present site. Bill Halewood, secretary of the new ACO branch in Cobourg, A.K. Sculthorpe, Phil Carter, as Chair of the Advisory Board, and local MP Christine Stewart met with the Town's administration to review the situation and come up with a plan to save the house and restore it in situ. The headline in the local newspaper

reads: "Preserve Whitehall on site, expert advises." Let's hope the good publicity will result in some positive action for this wonderful early frame building.

Camden East

The ACO would like to sell the Camden East house this spring. Owned and restored by the ACO, it would be ideal for anyone wanting a country retreat or a main residence within commuting distance of Kingston. The house boasts a new furnace and has been well cared for. For details, contact Bob Fair, (905) 342-2261.

ACO Web Site

At the January 1999 Provincial Council meeting, the final decisions were made to get our own web site. Leah Wallace, member of the Advisory Board, will design the site and lodge it with Culturenet as the server. One of the key uses of the site will be for the Historic Architecture Linking Program (see "HALP Update" in this issue). We plan to have the web site up and running by the Annual General Meeting in April so that members can see it demonstrated there.

Mary Glendinning ☛

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Friday, April 17, 1998 St. Simon the Apostle Parish Hall, Toronto

Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed some 50 members to the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. Mrs. Sculthorpe extended her personal thanks, and those of

Executive and Council, to the Toronto Branch for undertaking the task of organizing this event. She noted that there was a quorum and asked for the approval of the agenda. Mr. Alan Beck requested that last year's motion regarding advance publication of the nominating committee's report and the financial statement be added under Business Arising. It was moved by Mr. Terry Foord, seconded by Mrs. Pat Rosebrugh, that the agenda be adopted as amended. CARRIED.

1997 Minutes

The President asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the 1997 Annual General Meeting, which were circulated to members as part of the Winter 1998 issue of ACORN. It was moved by Mrs. Katharine Mills, seconded by Mrs. Edna Hudson, that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting be accepted as circulated. CARRIED.

Business Arising

Mr. Dan Schneider reported for the ad hoc committee appointed to review the By-law. He stated that the initial phase of reviewing the current version and previous amendments was complete, noting that the Secretary should always include the full version of any amendments in the minutes of the Annual General Meeting. The next steps are to simplify the language of the By-law and then to look at possible changes, such as reconsidering maximum terms of office. He anticipated sending proposed changes to Executive and Council in June. A lawyer's final review is required.

Mr. Beck reintroduced his motion that the report of the nominating committee and the financial statements be forwarded to members one month before the Annual General Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry Foord. The difficulty of having this information so far in

advance, despite best efforts, was duly noted. The motion was **CARRIED** by a vote of 14 to 10 with the remainder of the members abstaining.

President's Report

Mrs. Sculthorpe congratulated Toronto Branch, particularly Branch President Edna Hudson and Joann McLennan, on their arrangements for the Conference weekend, and Mary Glendinning for organizing the speakers for the conference and taking care of the multitude of details involved.

Mrs. Sculthorpe summarized some of the ACO's activities over the past year, stressing the important role of the Advisory Board in bringing two major projects to the ACO — restoration of the Melville White Church in Caledon and of the Wilton Methodist Church. Only if the ACO is directly involved do we allow our charitable number to be used in fundraising efforts. In addition, she expressed her extreme pleasure in proposing the inclusion of two new branches of the ACO, namely South Bruce Grey and Cobourg.

Other provincial activities included a very successful fundraising workshop organized by Paul Dilse; publication of *Conserving Ontario's Landscapes*, for which she thanked editors Julia Beck and Bill Moffet; and ongoing participation in the Ontario Heritage Alliance.

The ACORN Endowment Fund of \$60,000 helps support the cost of publication of ACORN. This year, the Financial Committee advised switching this fund from Pursuit Money Market to General Motors Acceptance Corporation at a rate of 5.302%, giving us \$3,181.21 in interest per year.

The President expressed her appreciation for the support of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation which is vital in enabling us to pursue

our efforts to save Ontario's legacy of heritage buildings. She also gave special thanks to the ACO's many volunteers, noting the particular efforts of Diane McCormick, Catharine Ramsey and new ACORN Editor Dan Schneider, as well as Consulting Heritage Manager Paul Dilse, who contributes many volunteer hours. In closing she thanked the members of the Executive for their support throughout her two-year term and extended her best wishes to incoming President Mary Angela Tucker.

Financial Report

The President introduced Turney Wong, nominee for the position of Treasurer. Ms. Wong presented the audited financial statements, thanking the branch treasurers for their help. She noted that the statement had yet to be finalized because of a last minute adjustment in reporting on the South Bruce Grey Branch. She noted also that large projects, such as the restoration of Victoria Jubilee Hall undertaken by South Bruce Grey, account for the higher totals for grants and donations, as well as the higher disbursements under Projects, as compared with 1996. Mr. Dan Atkinson queried the low figure for membership dues received, only half that projected, and was advised that some branches pay head office late in the year. Mrs. Julia Beck pointed out that a considerable sum was still owed to the Bieniewski Fund. The President stated that a further repayment was anticipated in May. Ms. Wong stated that a summary of the finalized statements would appear in the next issue of ACORN.

It was moved by Mr. Bob Fair, seconded by Mr. Dan Atkinson, that the draft financial statements to December 31, 1997, be approved. **CARRIED.**

Ms. Wong then presented the

proposed budget for 1998. Details of projected expenditures were explained by the President and the Consulting Heritage Manager. Mr. Dilse stated that program costs include his out-of-pocket expenses on behalf of the ACO, such as long distance charges incurred from his home office as opposed to the Adelaide Street office. It was agreed that workshop expenses be separated from program expenses.

It was moved by Mr. Bob Fair, seconded by Mr. Dan Atkinson, that the 1998 budget be approved. **CARRIED** with one opposed.

Report of the Consulting Heritage Manager

Mr. Dilse presented the highlights of his report for the year ended December 31, 1997. With regard to the Advisory Board, 14 projects were completed, one project assigned but not completed, and 25 telephone inquiries handled. He noted donations of \$1,500 received for consultations by Board members and two new appointments to the Board — David Eckler and Ross Anderson. Other duties included correspondence, meetings, membership development, publication sales and organizing a training workshop. The fundraising campaign brought in \$26,030 from individuals and branches and \$2,150 in corporate donations.

Mrs. Sculthorpe thanked Mr. Dilse for his unfailing support to herself and the Executive.

Referral System for Vacant Heritage Properties at Risk

Mr. Alan Seymour outlined a plan to match sellers with suitable buyers of heritage properties, noting that the print media vary widely in circulation, while an enormous potential exists in the

new technology of the Internet. With the assistance of Leah Wallace, Mr. Seymour proposed that the ACO establish a web site on which would be listed endangered properties, with backup information in printed form available if requested. It was moved by Mr. Seymour, seconded by Ms. Kathy Smith, that the ACO proceed in 1998 to establish a web site for the primary purpose of making known the availability of heritage properties at risk. CARRIED.

Presentation

Mr. Fred McGarry gave a short demonstration of the CD ROM program he has developed to be used primarily as a means of disseminating knowledge of cultural heritage, the natural environment and other topics, mainly through educational institutions. A thorough analysis of the heritage of the village of Blair in the City of Cambridge was used as a pilot project.

Eric Arthur Celebration

Mrs. Joann McLennan presented this report on behalf of Mr. Alec Keefer. The celebration will comprise an exhibit at the Market Gallery, St. Lawrence Market, from November 1, 1998, to March 8, 1999; a colloquium at University College, University of Toronto, on November 14; and the annual Gala Dinner on the evening of the 14th in the Rotunda of the New (Revell) City Hall, a project in which Eric Arthur played a role. In his report, Mr. Keefer stressed the strong support of the Arthur family and the generous assistance of the staff of the Special Collections Room at Toronto Reference Library and of the City of Toronto Archives.

Town Centre Regeneration Project (Street Smarts)

Mr. Bob Fair detailed a partnership initiative between the ACO, the

Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Heritage Canada Foundation, with funding from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation. The purpose of the project, entitled Street Smarts, is to provide training for citizens in selected communities to assist them in managing built heritage for the regeneration of town centres. The HCF's Ontario office will manage and coordinate the project. Alec Keefer and A.K. Sculthorpe will represent the ACO on the executive team and Bob Fair on the working team. A promotional brochure describing the project is now available.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Bill Moffet, Chair, presented the proposed slate of Officers and Members-at-Large for 1998-1999 as follows: President Ms. Mary Angela Tucker
Senior Vice-President

..... Mrs. Margaret Goodbody
Vice-President Mr. Terry Foord
Vice-President Mrs. Pat Malicki
Treasurer Ms. Turney Wong
Secretary Ms. Mary Glendinning
Past President ... Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe
Members-at-Large
..... Mr. Christopher Borgal
..... Mr. Robert Fair
..... Ms. Diane McCormick
..... Mrs. Anne McKillop
..... Mrs. Joann McLennan
..... Ms. Kathy Smith
..... Mr. Scott Valens

It was moved by Mr. Andrew Connidis, seconded by Mrs. Betty Dashwood, that the proposed slate of officers for 1998-1999 be approved. CARRIED. The above-named individuals will serve in the office set opposite their names for the ensuing year, each to serve until his or her successor shall be elected and qualify.

It was moved by Mr. Peter Stokes, seconded by Mr. Howard Chapman, that this Annual General Meeting of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. approve the actions of

the Provincial Council for the year 1997-1998. CARRIED.

Ms. Tucker, on assuming the office of President, paid tribute to retiring President A.K. Sculthorpe whom she said it was an honour to follow. Flowers were presented to Mrs. Sculthorpe who received a standing ovation. The newly elected President then welcomed her fellow officers and bade farewell to Member-at-Large Pat Rosebrugh who had completed her term.

Appointment of Auditors

It was moved by Mr. Dan Atkinson, seconded by Mr. Terry Foord, that the firm of Lynch Rutherford Tozer be appointed auditors for the coming year and that Council be authorized to fix their remuneration. CARRIED.

Branch Reports

Reports were received from the South Bruce Grey, Hamilton Region, Cambridge, London Region, Quinte Region, Port Hope, Toronto Region and Windsor Region branches.

Other Business

It was announced that the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants would be held on May 9, 1998 at Dundurn Castle, Hamilton, and that Community Heritage Ontario's annual conference was scheduled for May 29-31 in Kitchener.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Sculthorpe.

Margaret Goodbody
Secretary

Dorothy Wallace 1914-1998

At the time of her death last October, wonderful tributes to Dorothy Wallace appeared in *The Goderich Signal-Star* (November 4, 1998 by Dave Sykes) and *The Globe and Mail* (November 23, 1998 by Douglas Chambers, seen photographed in last summer's issue of ACORN).

Sykes records Dorothy's work in preserving Goderich's buildings:

Dorothy's involvement in the heritage landscape was born out of a crisis in 1972 when the County of Huron announced its intention to demolish the Huron County Jail to facilitate expansion of the assessment office.

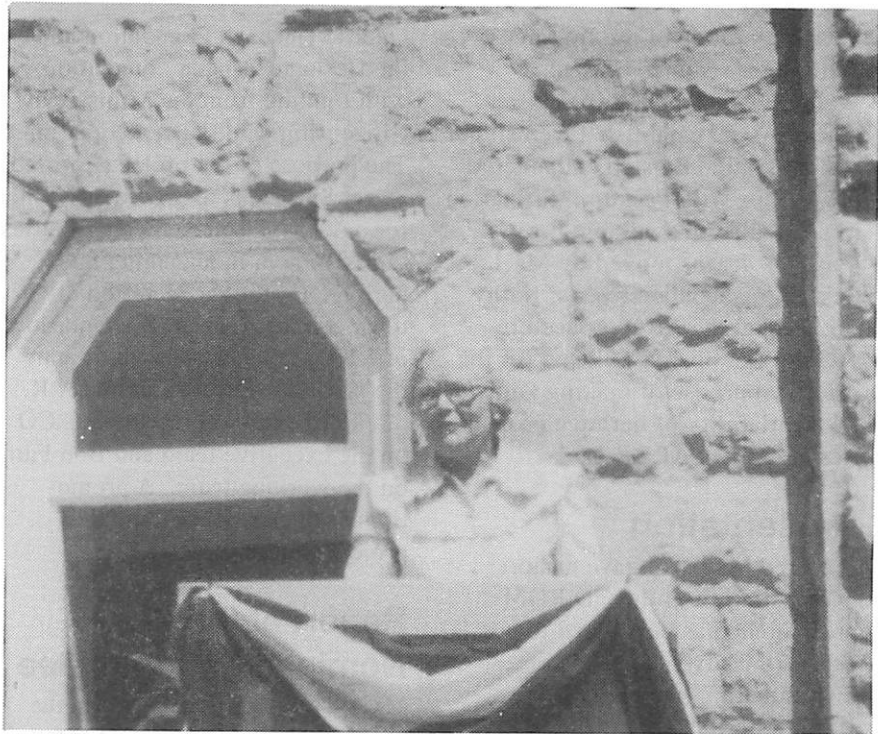
The jail, built in 1839-42, played an integral role in the development of the Huron Tract and was an outstanding example of an octagonal jail structure.

Dorothy organized the 'Save the Jail Committee' in 1972. Three years later, the historic gaol was commemorated and declared to be of national architectural significance. It was later renovated and transformed into a museum.

Dorothy's demonstrated concern for preservation led to the founding of the Huron County Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

That resulted in the formation of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) in 1975 and the town had the distinction of being one of the first municipalities to form such a committee.

It was through this committee that Dorothy, and others, turned their attention to the preservation of community heritage buildings and areas.



Dorothy Wallace at the opening of Polley's Livery Stable in June, 1983

Using her own financial resources, she purchased and restored one of the town's earliest houses, the Whitely House (1854) on Elgin Avenue, into a residential office building. ...

Many people will remember her efforts to save Polley's Livery Stable on South Street in 1978. Using her own resources, the building was acquired in trust for the Goderich Performing Arts Foundation....

Chambers adds to Dorothy's long list of achievements:

As a strong supporter of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, her advice and help inspired many people in different parts of the province both to save historic buildings and to write about them. ... She wrote the history of Colborne Township and of Goderich, and in the process she resurrected one of Ontario's most important photographic pioneers, Reuben Sallows, from obscurity.

Dorothy also saw to completion the designation of the Goderich Square as a heritage conservation district, and it was through that project that I was introduced to her. In 1982, while working for the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, I came to Goderich to try and persuade people that a heritage conservation district for the Square was a good idea. The reaction at the public meeting was quite deflating, and, to cheer us up, Dorothy invited Cindy Fisher, Huron County planner, and me to her place afterward. On that visit and subsequent ones over the years, her warm-heartedness, generosity and ability to get things done impressed and inspired me.

Provincial Council has wanted to revitalize the Huron County Branch that Dorothy helped start and which remained active into the 1990s. Dorothy encouraged us to organize Huron County residents sympathetic to our cause. What a fitting memorial to Dorothy Wallace it would be if we were to reestablish an official ACO presence in Goderich and area.

Paul Dilse 

Eric Arthur Colloquium: Conservation in Context

On November 14, 1998, Alec Keefer introduced a one-day seminar convened by the Alumni Association of University College and the ACO. The colloquium was timed to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the incorporation of the ACO and the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of its illustrious founders, Professor Eric Ross Arthur (1898-1982).



Alec Keefer at the Eric Arthur Colloquium

The first speaker, Paul Arthur, used snapshots in the family photo album to trigger memories of his father's unique style and active social life. One such photograph showed the Arthurs in prize-winning fancy dress as a Maori chief and consort at the Royal York 1936 New Year's Eve celebrations. Another photo reminded Paul of his father's cross-Atlantic voyage to England during WWII to see the bomb damage in London. The ship happened to be carrying a cargo of high explosive material! Nevertheless, Arthur not only survived, but also charmed his way to a seat at the captain's table by sending flowers to the captain's wife.

Dr. Angela Carr considered Arthur's role as an architectural educator. Born in New Zealand, he graduated

from the University of Liverpool in 1922. Following a spell working in London as a draftsman for Edwin Lutyens (at a salary of \$2,500 a year), Arthur came to Canada in 1924 as Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Toronto. (He apparently chose Canada because it was halfway between Europe and New Zealand.) The School of Architecture curriculum at the time was borrowed from the Beaux Arts School in Paris, and he was recruited because of his familiarity with these principles.

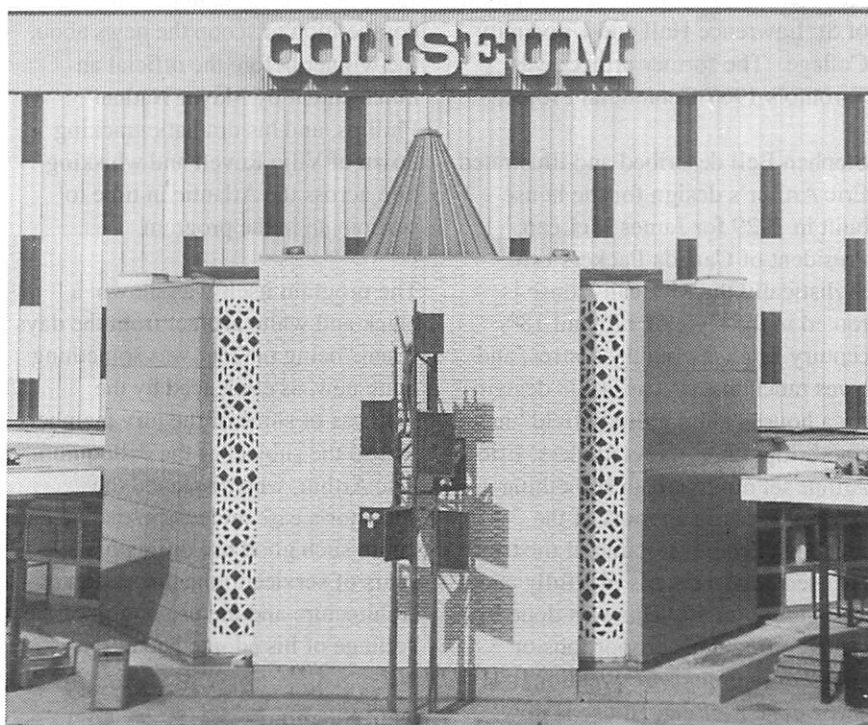
Canadian architects at the time were members of a small exclusive club divided into educators and practitioners. Arthur's students were soon in the leading edge and, at a time when the OAA was starting to support the University of Toronto by dedicating prizes, Arthur's students were soon winning them. His concern for recording the architectural heritage of Ontario started in 1926 when he initiated a photo survey of heritage buildings. He laid great emphasis on the value of measured drawings as an exercise for students in observation and draughtsmanship and as an



Eric Arthur at University College, University of Toronto, 1970. Photo: Robert Landsdale. Photograph courtesy of the Arthur Family

inventory for posterity. His book, *No Mean City*, helped to raise the awareness of Torontonians about the fabric of their city and helped change the attitude of city council to architectural preservation.

Howard Chapman spoke about the early days of the ACO, founded by



*Coliseum, Canadian National Exhibition Grounds, designed by Eric Arthur
Photo courtesy of Michael McClelland*

Anthony Adamson and Eric Arthur in 1933. The 84 signatories to the Charter were a veritable who's who of Ontario society at that time, and an indication of the persuasiveness of Arthur's charm; as Tony Adamson said, "he (Arthur) acted and I clapped." Unfortunately very few of the illustrious signatories actually supported the fledgling ACO with money or action, and the survival of the organization was solely due to the efforts of Arthur and Adamson, who acted as Director and Secretary respectively between 1933-1948.

Michael McClelland focussed on Eric Arthur's post-1950 career with an illustrated presentation of some of his most public buildings. His own home in Lawrence Park, surrounded by sturdy brick houses with Arts and Crafts detailing, makes no concessions to context and is clad predominantly in wood. Perhaps his best known building is Wymilwood, the Student Union building on Charles Street West in Toronto, completed in 1954 for Victoria College. In 1962 he was commissioned together with architects Fleury and Barclays to repair the fire damaged south façade of the Coliseum in the CNE grounds. He acted as advisor on the restoration of St. Lawrence Hall and University College. The former project was Toronto's 1967 Centennial Project.

Stephen Bell described and illustrated Eric Arthur's design for the house built in 1929 for James McLean, President of Canada Packers Ltd. Stylistically the McLean House is rooted in the style of 17th and 18th century English country houses, and owes much to Lutyens' 1908 design for a house called "Middlefield" in Cambridgeshire. Nevertheless, Eric Arthur set out to create something a little different from most of the revivalist designs popular at the time. He used period details playfully and even humorously. This was done by exaggerating their proportions or applying them in unconventional ways. The McLean House is now used as a conference and special

events facility by Sunnybrook. Alfred Holden spoke on behalf of Edna Hudson who prepared a presentation on architectural competitions in general, and Eric Arthur's work on the 1957 Toronto City Hall competition in particular. The OAA agreed to assist in conducting a national competition and nominated Eric Arthur as Professional Advisor. However, Toronto City Council decided the competition should be international in scope. Much care was taken in drawing up the conditions. It was to be a two-stage competition with a maximum of eight entries proceeding to the second stage. The winner was to be chosen by an international jury, and competitors' names were withheld until a decision had been made. A total of 532 submissions were received, and the final winner was Viljo Revell of Finland. The city honoured its commitment, and the New City Hall, with 700,000 sq. ft. of space, was opened in 1966 at a cost of \$32,000,000.

The last speaker, Vincent Tovell, was director of the CBC TV program "Explorations" at the time when the competition results were announced. He spoke about the intense media competition to scoop the news about the winner before the official announcement by Mayor Nathan Phillips, and his dramatic tracking down of Viljo Revell and whisking him across the Atlantic in time to participate in the program.

The program itself was shown: a black and white artifact from the days when "being on TV" was something quite new, as evidenced by the stiffness of some of the jury members. Not so the subject of the colloquium, Eric Arthur, who displayed the educator's ease and charm that he had put to such good use during his 59 years of service to the profession of architecture and the promotion of the heritage of his adopted country.

Alan Seymour 20

St. Marys Turns Railway Bridge Into Spectacular Walking Trail

By Carol Robinson-Todd

In a town nestled in the valley of the Thames River, visitors soon get used to the fact that, if you're standing "downtown," you are literally "down" and have to go "up" to get anywhere else in town. St. Marys, also known as the "Stonetown," in the southern end of Perth County, has been blessed with a beautiful natural setting of undulating hills around the confluence of the Thames River and Trout Creek. The picturesque weir and falls in the centre of town once had the more practical function of providing power for flour milling. Anyone stopping on the Victoria Bridge to admire the falls cannot miss another striking sight upstream: a massive railway viaduct crossing the Thames.

In 1857, the Grand Trunk Railway announced plans to come to St. Marys. Two lines – a main one to Sarnia and a secondary line to London – would branch off from a junction at the edge of the village. Contracts for the construction of the Sarnia and London lines from St. Marys, specifically for the building of limestone viaducts over the Thames River and Trout Creek, were awarded to George Weir and Donald Robinson.

The London Bridge opened for traffic first. In November of 1859 the St. Marys to Sarnia branch of the Grand Trunk Railway was opened for traffic at last and the first train crossed the Sarnia Bridge, a nine-pier, 663 foot long structure towering 70 feet above the Thames.

Passenger travel reached its peak by the late 19th century with three east-



Sarnia Bridge Viaduct, St. Marys. Photo: Dan Schneider

bound and three west-bound trains daily. By the mid-20th century passenger service was being severely cut back until eventually only freight trains used the Sarnia Bridge. In 1989 the last freight train crossed the Sarnia Bridge and the future of this historic structure was in doubt.

In 1993, in a far-sighted move, the Town of St. Marys completed negotiations with the CNR to purchase the bridge and the railway right-of-way through the town limits from James Street in the east to the Thames

Road in the west. At this time the Town had the idea of turning the railway right-of-way into a public walkway. The Town also acquired the Junction Station, a long disused, original 1858 limestone structure recognized as a National Historic Site.

In June of 1996, a committee of local and area volunteers was formed to work towards creating a walking trail along the right-of-way and over the Sarnia Bridge. The name for the new walkway became the Grand Trunk Trail.

In recent years, the Sarnia Bridge and adjacent Emily Street overpass were not easy to get to. Corrugated steel barricades were erected by the town to keep people from crossing the bridge, but the braver, or more foolhardy, saw the barricades as a challenge to be conquered. Graffiti, broken bottles and garbage had been accumulating for years. The area was an eyesore.

Made up of 15 hardworking members, the committee quickly realized that the Sarnia Bridge would be the focus of our attention since it linked the two parts of the Trail. With the repair and refurbishing of the Sarnia Bridge as the priority, the committee began to direct its energies in two major ways: fundraising and design.

We learned from a similar project in Goderich: the successful transformation of a railway viaduct crossing the Maitland River into the Menesetung Bridge. Ideas were tossed in and tossed out as to what we wanted our trail and bridge to look like until finally consensus was reached. We opted for steel, powder-coated railings with lamp-posts integrated into the railing design and a deck of pressure-treated wooden planks. Sounds simple, but we wanted to make sure that the railings would allow for the most unimpeded view possible of St. Marys to the south and the farm meadows to the north while meeting the necessary safety standards.

Countless hours were spent researching lamp fixtures that would enhance the look we wanted. Do we go with the railway theme with enameled steel, overhanging lamps? Or fancy ones with lots of curlicue designs? We decided that the lights were not the focus of attention — the view was. The decision was made to buy fixtures that were the same as those purchased by the town for the downtown core and for the existing River View Walkway along the Thames. They are tasteful, effective and bring a continuity of look to the Trail.

Our local Kinsmen Club took on the herculean task of fastening close to 1500 wood planks on the Sarnia and Emily Street Bridges. At 9:25 p.m. on July 29, 1998, with the laying of the last plank, the east and west sections of the trail were joined. The Kinsmen also bought the 13 lamp fixtures for the bridge. One beautiful late summer's evening a lucky group of walkers witnessed the first faint, but gradually intensifying glow from the lamps. In the days and weeks to follow it became the thing to do — to be out on the bridge when the lights came on.

Our ambitious fundraising target is \$275,000; as of December 1998 we are proud to have raised \$134,000. The two bridges have cost us \$94,000 for railings, \$20,000 for the plank decking and \$17,500 on retaining walls: a total of \$131,500.

Since the euphoria of the unofficial opening of the Grand Trunk Trail, the committee has continued to raise funds for the next phases of the

project. These include laying an underground hydro line for the extension of the line of lamps that will light the entire length of the two kilometer trail and for other natural and aesthetic enhancements.

In the two and a half years since the creation of the Grand Trunk Trail-St. Marys committee, an inaccessible eyesore has been turned into a facility of great local pride and one we hope will encourage people "from away" to visit our town.

There is nothing novel these days about the rails-to-trails movement. It has great merits in terms of heritage preservation, nature appreciation, recreation and fitness. What we have that makes our trail special is an old railway viaduct, high above the Thames River, which in its new guise has captured the hearts of everyone who stands on it and looks out to see stone church spires reaching skyward, the bell-tower of the Town Hall, the Gothic Revival former Opera House

whose stage welcomed the famous and the now-forgotten, and the breathtaking rural landscape to the north. A walk on the trail, a pause on the bridge, will often be rewarded with a fly-past by a "V" of Canada Geese honking their unmistakable greeting.

Carol Robinson-Todd is chairperson of The Grand Trunk Trail-St. Marys Committee.

Thanks to the St. Marys Museum and St. Marys LACAC for information on the history of the Sarnia Bridge.

The Committee relies on tax-deductible donations to reach its fundraising goals. Cheques, made out to The Grand Trunk Trail-St. Marys, can be sent to The Town of St. Marys, P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, Ont. N4X 1B6. Local donations can be made at the Town Hall, the VIA Station and the St. Marys Museum. You are also invited to visit the Committee's website [www.stonetown.com/gttsm].



Branch Reports

Cobourg

Defeat snatched from jaws of victory

At last writing, Cobourg had won its court case against the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough and seemed to have saved St. Michael's rectory. Improbably, the case has been lost again, and the building is down. The town was timid when the church was bold, and one more of Cobourg's old houses bites the dust.

In the same week, wreckers took down the Model School (known for half a century as the Lydia Pinkham Building), victim to an expanding General Motors car lot. Unlike the rectory, this (even finer) building never had a chance. The ACO Advisory Board's report with propos-

als for restoration arrived on a Friday. On the Monday, Cobourg Town Council voted for demolition.

The campaign to save "Whitehall," the oldest house in town and richest in historical associations, seems to be gathering energy [see photo of "Whitehall" on page 24]. We could use a change of luck!

Bill Halewood ☛

Hamilton Region

Downtown Details at the Art Gallery of Hamilton

Over 100 people attended the opening of the Downtown Details exhibition at the Art Gallery of Hamilton on September 24, 1998. Guest speaker Ken Greenberg, Architect and Urban Designer, offered valuable ideas for downtown revital-

ization in his talk on his involvement in the revitalization of Hartford, Connecticut.

The exhibition featured details from twelve historic buildings in Hamilton's downtown area. Photos were taken by Ken Coit and were accompanied by brief texts written by Ann Gillespie, Rob Hamilton, and Megan Hobson. The greatly enlarged details created an impressive display of a variety of architectural features.

The buildings selected ranged in date from 1854 to 1936 and illustrated a wide array of styles — from the Italianate palazzo that served as Hamilton's Custom House (now the Ontario Workers' Arts & Heritage Centre) — to the Moderne steel and glass tower of the former TH&B Railway Station (now the GO Transit Terminal). The details highlighted in the exhibition illustrated the high level of both architectural design and

building craft that characterizes Hamilton's architecture from this period. The materials employed varied widely – from the unique hand-crafted sheet-metal façade of Victoria Hall – to the rug brick and white glazed terra cotta facade of the Lister Block.

Many of the details expressed the symbolism of these buildings: the oak and the thistle carved in the limestone entrance to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church; the mythical allegory of peace, industry and abundance on the frieze of the former Dominion Building. Perhaps the most memorable and unique of all was the colour triptych of three of the six stained glass windows in the lobby of the Neo-Gothic skyscraper built by the Pigott Construction Company. The windows celebrate the architectural accomplishments of the Pigott Company and glorify the building trades by borrowing the iconography of Christian saints for architect, stone mason, carpenter and steel worker.

While many of the buildings exhibited have been restored and some have been sympathetically renovated for new uses, three buildings — the Lister Block, Victoria Hall and the CN Railway Station — are presently vacant and many citizens are concerned about their future. The exhibition reminded all who attended that Hamilton's downtown core is rich with an architectural beauty that is all too often overlooked.

Megan Hobson

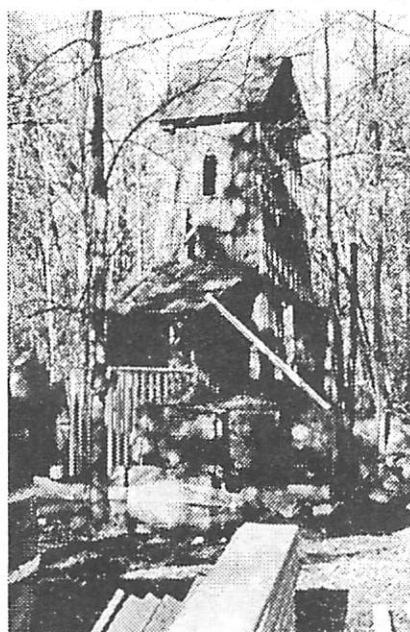
Heritage Cambridge

Sheave Tower Restored

The designated Sheave Tower in Blair has been the main focus of the Branch's activities in recent months. The Sheave Tower has been owned by Heritage Cambridge since 1994. Last spring, we sold a 1.34 acre parcel from the original five acre property we

purchased, and then started on the task of restoring the tower.

Built in 1876 by Sam Bowman, the Sheave Tower provided 15 horsepower of power to the four storey corn mill across the road. The 2 1/2 storey, gothic windowed, board and batten structure sits atop a mill race, which caused the sheave to turn at the top of the tower, which in turn ran the 300 foot cable to the mill. The tower was privately



Sheave Tower, Blair

owned until 1994, with an easement which allowed the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation to have access for maintenance. The tower had not had work done on it since the 1970s.

We were fortunate to have excellent restoration architects quote on the job, and chose Nicholas Hill. As the tower was being assessed, it became apparent that the restoration of the foundation was very urgently required; indeed, it was felt the tower might not stand one more winter. Thanks in part to the low water table, the excellent fall weather, and the speed at which the contractors worked, the tower has been stabilized and restored. A concrete sleeve was poured around the foundations (light could be seen

through large cracks in the water sluiceway). A grey colorant was added to the concrete to match the original colour, and the concrete was poured against large, rough-hewn planks, as was done originally. It was exciting standing inside the tower, watching and listening to the water rush through the sluiceway, circle through the "drain," then down the pipes and into the creek below. The contractors dug 36-40 inches of silt out of the sluiceway and stopped the water (we hope forever) from flowing through the foundation.

Another story was told when the wooden structure was tackled. The tower's main support beams were resting on rotted-out sill beams. After these were replaced, the main support beams had new wood "scabbed in" to replace the bottom few rotten feet. However, when one beam was cut, the centre of the beam was totally eaten out – by ants! Very little was holding the tower up, and why it hadn't collapsed was a mystery!

New cladding in the board and batten style was applied to the exterior. A search for enough old barnboard in 12 and 14 foot lengths to replace the rotted exterior yielded nothing, so new wood was required.

The tower's exterior had been weathered wood for as long as most residents of Blair could remember. Unable to achieve the same weathered look and still protect the structure from moisture and rot, we decided to stain the exterior boards to the original barn red (or oxblood) stain. We matched the colour to the stain found under the original battens, and it looks glorious! The work stopped when the weather changed, and will resume in the spring. A new bridge, some site work, and restoration of the old dam ruins and creek bed are still to be done. We are hoping that work will be completed in time for a guided tour on our annual Heritage House Tour day on April 24, 1999.

Dickson Hill

Cambridge is undertaking a new Heritage District Study for the Dickson Hill area. This is the West Galt residential district atop the hill overlooking the Grand River and the downtown core of Galt. Heritage Cambridge will sit on the steering committee of the Dickson Hill study, along with staff members from the City of Cambridge, area residents, and other appropriate groups. The projected completion date for the Heritage District Plan is June 1999. With the plan in place, buildings and possibly views within the boundaries will be protected, and any new building will have restrictions and policies to guide change and development. This is the second District Plan to proceed in two years – the Blair Heritage District was done in 1998. We're proud to have such a large, wonderful inventory of heritage resources in our city!

Cambridge House Tour

Our annual Heritage House Tour is set for April 24, 1999, thanks to our hardworking House Tour Committee, chaired once again by Sheila O'Donovan. We're excited by this year's wide variety of buildings on the tour – you can bet that our annual "Sunshine Dance" for good weather will go ahead as usual. Hope to see you there!

Meeting of Brant County Group

The Brant County Group of Heritage Cambridge held an initial meeting in the Paris Town Hall on Thursday, September 23, 1998. Turnout was excellent and another meeting is planned for late February or early March 1999. Please phone Mike Keefe at (519) 759-0948 for further information.

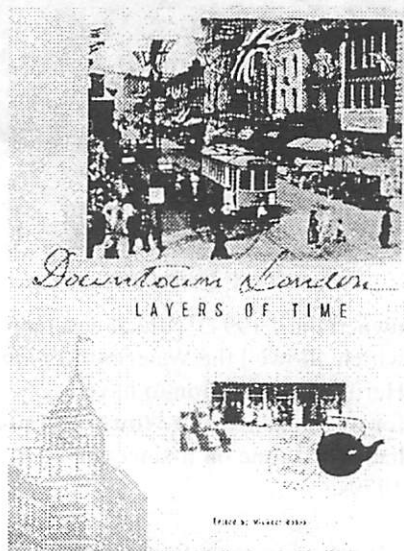
Kathryn McGarry & Michael Keefe



London Region

Films and Books

Our fall events included a lecture by Dietrich Neumann, professor of modern architectural history at Brown University, Rhode Island and editor of *Film Architecture: from Bladerunner to Metropolis*. This lecture was a joint presentation with the London Society of Architects as part of province-wide Architecture Week. Neumann covered a wide range of films and highlighted such films as *Metropolis* (1920s), Jacques Tati's *Mon Oncle* (1950s), *Bladerunner* (1982) as well as excerpts from home movies of Le Corbusier. *Metropolis* and *Bladerunner - the Director's Cut* were screened during the week. Both films proved to be a fascinating venture into the realm of architectural fantasy.



The fall also saw our vice-president Maggie Whalley lead the recently launched Downtown Discovery Trail, an initiative of the Mayor's Downtown Action Team on Heritage, which explores the history and architecture of London's downtown. This brochure was one of a couple of precursors to the launch in October of the highly anticipated book *Downtown London: Layers of Time*, edited by Mike Baker – former president of ACO London

and Regional Curator of the London Regional Art & Historical Museums. This book was an initiative of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH), and financially sponsored in part by the London Branch of the ACO. It is a wonderful work of 168 pages with over 500 illustrations. Two chapters were written by members of our ACO executive, Maggie Whalley and Nancy Tausky, and the map and some of the research was done by Alison Brown. The launch was a spectacular event with speeches by the Mayor and other prominent members of the community. 2,000 copies were printed and just about all are sold out.

ACO Conference '99

The London Region Branch is hosting this year's annual conference and general meeting. We are very much looking forward to this event. Of special interest will be presentations by the Ontario Heritage Foundation to owners of three buildings in London protected by heritage easements held by the OHF: Eldon House, the Middlesex County Administration Building, and the Old Normal School (now the Catholic School Board Offices). We are working hard to make this a good conference, so if you have not already submitted your registration form through the special branch mailout, please do so as soon as possible.

Alison Brown

North Waterloo

November walk

On a bright Sunday afternoon, some North Waterloo members walked a part of the residential area of the original city of Berlin, now Kitchener. We considered the architectural features that have been retained in the houses of the district and, sadly, how much has been destroyed or mutilated.

A highlight of the walk was an extended visit to St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church. Built in 1894 under the direction of Toronto architect Eden Smith, the main building retains many of the signature features characteristic of the buildings, particularly the churches, Smith worked on in Toronto. St. John's bears a startling resemblance, for example, to one of his best known works, St. Thomas' Church near the University of Toronto.

Christmas Event

On December 16 about 15 members of the branch gathered at the Homer Watson House in the Doon section of Kitchener for our annual get-together. The house was built about 1834 by Adam Ferrie, a mill owner. It is made of yellow brick and Scottish Gothic in style.

Homer Watson, who became a prominent landscape painter, bought the house in 1881 and built a studio in the 1890s. He added an impressive gallery to the right of the original house in the early 1900s and it has a raised section of roof in the centre with windows that let in natural light.

The home consists of two rooms for displaying art, in addition to the gallery, and two additional rooms that are devoted to the life of Homer Watson. Watson painted a frieze in these latter two rooms that consists of small paintings rendered in the style of the artist they represent, such as Gainsborough and Turner.

John Boulden, a member of our executive, greeted all guests and introduced Gretchen McCullough, the Director of Homer Watson House who described the exhibits. Some of the paintings were done by artists who had a long association with the house when it was the Doon School of Fine Arts, established 50 years ago. A history of the school has been published and was for sale, as were other items that artists had created for Christmas gifts. Eleanor Currie had

done a beautiful job of decorating the tables with candles and pine boughs for the plates of Christmas baking the members had brought. Brian Dietrich, another executive member, had prepared the flyers and taken a lovely photo of the house made into a postcard that went out to all the members. Joyce Arndt brought along the framed certificate that you see in the photo. The certificate honours the North Waterloo Region Branch for its long involvement in preserving the architecture of this area and was given to us on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation.



Joyce Arndt at Homer Watson House

For 1999 we plan an Annual Meeting in March, a tour of West Montrose and Elmira in the spring, and a walking tour of Guelph later in the year.

Marg Rowell and John Boulden ☺

Port Hope

Conserving the Heritage of Walton Street

The fall of 1998 marked a very significant event in Port Hope — the

designation of the Walton Street Heritage Conservation District. After approximately 20 years of research, discussion and negotiation the conservation district became a reality following an August hearing of the Ontario Municipal Board. In November, members of LACAC and the ACO welcomed Isabel Bassett, Ontario Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, to officially celebrate the designation of Walton Street, a streetscape Peter John Stokes has described as "perhaps the most handsome and complete mid-nineteenth century formal main street of Southern Ontario."

Many people must be thanked for the formal legal recognition of the cultural significance of Walton Street — a sympathetic and willing Town Council, LACAC members, business leaders and others. But no one has contributed as much as consulting restoration architect Peter Stokes. Peter's many studies, advocacy and understanding of the functions of a main street in a living town have contributed immeasurably to the preservation of Port Hope's past.

House Tour Success

The annual Port Hope House Tour on the Saturday before Thanksgiving was an overwhelming success again this year. Sold-out by August, the tour raised \$20,000 for our Branch activities, which this year include help towards the restoration of St. Paul's Church, the Capitol Theatre and the Skeena Building. Chris Montgomery and her committee of dedicated volunteers must be commended for their excellent work. A new committee led by Betty Ann Knutson will organize the 1999 tour.

ICOMOS Canada Meets in Port Hope

Conservationists have had a very busy fall in Port Hope. At the end of October, Port Hope hosted the first-ever ICOMOS Canada annual conference to be held outside Ottawa. The conference, entitled "Community

Initiatives - A Vital Resource for Conservation," introduced over 100 conservationists from across Canada to the vital small town culture that sustains our community. The organizing committee of Rod Stewart, Mell Chapple, Sasha Armour and A.K. Sculthorpe arranged for receptions and seminars throughout Port Hope with plenary sessions in the restored Capitol Theatre. A week before the conference third and fourth year architecture students from Ryerson Polytechnic University participated in a charette in Port Hope, reporting their findings and innovative ideas to town councillors and downtown building owners at a Sunday afternoon session arranged by Rod Stewart.

Heritage Festival

On Thanksgiving weekend the first annual Port Hope Heritage Festival attracted about 10,000 visitors to celebrate the cultural heritage of our community. Our Branch participated by offering Walton Street walking tours, led by Phil Carter, Terry Foord, Bob Fair, Helen Strathy and Sue Stickley. ACO volunteers also manned an information booth and sold "Doorways of Port Hope" posters, walking tour booklets and other Branch publications.

San Miguel de Allende, "The Secret City"

Once again, Daphne Svenningson offered her outstanding talents in photography and travel narration to community members last November 25. In what has become an annual event, Daphne conducts us to another place for an evening, sharing her unique eye for colour, composition and the human condition. The quality of this year's show was outstanding and we thank Mrs. Svenningson for her dedication to our Branch aims and objectives.

Christmas Party

Hosting our annual Christmas gathering this year at the Butternut

Inn were our president, Bob Harrison, and his wife, Bonnie. Over 100 members enjoyed their hospitality and many then moved on to the Capitol Theatre to enjoy the first annual Christmas tree fundraising reception. Thanks, Bonnie and Bob, you outdo yourselves every year.

Doorways of Port Hope

This poster, produced by Daphne Svenningson and Dale Beale, was launched in late summer and is already almost sold-out. The beautiful, full-colour poster was sponsored by Cameco and featured a contest in the Evening Guide. All proceeds from poster sales support local ACO activities. This poster has an especially poignant significance for its creative team as both lost their spouses shortly after its production. Karen Beale and Bancroft Svenningson will be sorely missed by their many friends in the ACO and the community.

Downtown Trees

Our Branch has contributed to planting new trees in Port Hope's downtown core. Ivory silk lilac and green ash have been planted at locations recommended by the HBIA and the tree committee of the Town of Port Hope.

Sotheby's "Heirloom Discovery Day"

Sotheby's will visit Port Hope on June 19, 1999 with a "road show" which assists in identifying and evaluating treasures. The event will be held at Beatrice Strong School on Rose Glen Road from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Heather MacKinnon, chair of our education committee, has also arranged a gala fundraising dinner to be held in honour of Sotheby's on the evening before their visit - Friday, June 18 at Batterwood, home of Daphne and Ian Angus.

Garden Tour

The biannual Port Hope Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, July 10,

1999. Ian and Eleanor Campbell are the committee chairs of this successful event. A Garden Tea, organized by Ann Riddell and her committee, will also be offered.

Sue Stickley ☛

Quinte Branch

Annual Meeting

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held on January 17, 1999 and took place at the Belleville Scout and Guide Museum on the grounds of the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf. As in the last few years, we were pleased to be able to arrange for an outstanding speaker. That speaker was Ron Brown, well-known author of many books on old Ontario and this area in particular, including *Ghost Towns of Ontario*, and his latest, *The Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore*. Mr. Brown's topic was the "Railways of Canada," specifically Ontario, their historical importance and architectural legacies, especially the stations. Over sixty people attended the meeting and we were delighted by the well-researched and light-hearted presentation.

Walking Tours

Healey Falls, September 20

This was planned as a "different" type of tour where our normal concentration on built heritage was extended to cover natural heritage. We were not disappointed by either the weather or the variety of places visited.

The tour included some early industrial and commercial heritage, such as hydro generating stations and the Trent River locks. Starting at Lock 13 we proceeded to Lock 16 where the lockmaster, Mr. David Lloyd, gave us a delightful and informative history of the canal and this specific lock, the highest on the Trent system. We went on to visit the home of long-time ACO members Mr. and Mrs.

Jack Connor. Theirs is a beautifully restored Georgian brick house nestled on the shores of the Trent River just north of Campbellford. The Connors kindly allowed us to wander around their property and were full of anecdotes and information on their restoration efforts over the years. From there we proceeded to Lock 15 where Mr. Gary Williams demonstrated the manual lock operation and allowed us to browse through a binder he had assembled of early photos of the building of the locks and dams.

Enterprise, October 18

This was a tour that required a bit more driving than normal and one that had last been done in the 1980s by Rodger Greig. We attracted approximately 70 people, about 35 from the village itself, including several local historians. The tour wound through the entire village and included such sights as Detlor's General Store, the sight of the original mill, the Bell House (Windsor Hotel), Crown Bank, Old Reliable Cheese Factory, Weese's Store and the Milligan Barn (moved from Centreville in the 1930s). The tour finished at the circa 1892 United Church where refreshments were served. This was a rewarding tour in several respects but primarily for the tremendous interest and support shown by the local residents, a refreshing change from our reception in some areas.

Campbellford, November 15

This tour was planned for those areas not visited on our tour last year. Led by David Bentley and Katharine Mills, it covered the west side of the Trent River north of the main bridge and concentrated on the area around Queen Street. The buildings included the stone circa 1858 Cockburn House as well as several churches and other homes.

Heritage Watch

According to ACO member Cynthia Flavell, the ongoing efforts in the village of Bath to rejuvenate the Fairfield-Gutzeit House have been

going according to plan, even if that plan has had to be extended. Cynthia and her group would appreciate any help they can get — anyone interested please call Dan Atkinson at (613) 968-7576 for further information.

The two small workers' cottages at the rear of the Bel-Con building on Dundas Street West in Belleville were demolished recently. These were perhaps the last of their kind in the area formerly known as "Sawdust Flats."

Fire has claimed another vacant building in downtown Belleville — this time at the site of a former ladies wear store (Rachael's). At this rate, there won't be any need for demolition permits — the arsonist will see to that!

Dan Atkinson ☞

South Bruce Grey

Heritage Building Carries On Fine Tradition

Walkerton's Hartley House is a prime example of how a threatened heritage building can become a viable economic success story.

The original three-storied building was built about 1871 for James Hartley. County records for the landmark, which stands on the northwest corner of Jackson and Durham streets, were lost in a fire. The 129 year-old building, dated according to land registry records, was designated a heritage building by Walkerton Town Council in 1994.

The designation by-law says the structure is "regarded as an integral part of the historic streetscape ... for nearly a century and a quarter, it has continually served as a focal point of the local hospitality industry." The Hartley House has been host to many entertainers, sport celebrities and national and provincial politicians, including prime ministers Pierre Elliot Trudeau, John Diefenbaker and Lester B. Pearson. It was also the first

establishment in Canada to hire a female bartender.

Hartley sold the hotel to John Messner in 1891 who in turn sold it to Ferdinand Kormann in 1901. The business prospered under Kormann with much of his bar trade and overnight guests arriving by horse-drawn vehicles. In 1937 he opened a "Sample Room" for commercial travellers to display their wares to local people.

Charlie Schmalz bought the establishment in 1939. He had installed a small Ladies' and Escorts' beverage room by 1940, and eventually added a bowling alley and pool room. Schmalz and his family continued the hotel/restaurant's fine tradition, retaining its province-wide reputation for quality food and hospitality, until the doors closed in the summer of 1993 for economic reasons. The hotel stayed shut for almost a year and the building was threatened to be demolished and turned into a Tim Horton's.

Luckily, a Walkerton man saw the building's potential and bought it with the financial help of a \$100,000 Heritage Walkerton (LACAC) loan. The loan is from Walkerton's community heritage trust fund, established in 1984 with the assistance of the then Ministry of Culture and Communications.

And so the Hartley House came to life again. "I figured it being an old place and very successful at one time, it could be successful again," said Harvey Hinsperger. When renovations began, "my number one priority was to maintain the building's atmosphere while getting it back into the condition it could be used again." The original door and paneling of the restaurant were restored, the kitchen was remodeled, the old bar was refurbished and moved to its original site in the building, and the windows along the west of the building were restored to their original size.

"I knew the foundation and shell itself were in good shape and those are the first things you look at," said Hinsperger who had worked on the building in the 1970s. "The plumbing

CONSERVING HISTORIC INDUSTRIAL ARCHITECTURE IN ONTARIO

THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 16, 17, and 18, London, Ontario

With the ACO Annual General Meeting on April 18

Location: Middlesex County Administration Building, 399 Ridout Street North, London
Date/Time: Friday, April 16 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - opening reception
Saturday, April 17 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. - conference
Registration: Saturday - 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.

Speakers include:

- Christopher Borgal - Opening remarks and overview
- Chris Andreae - Issues in the Conservation and Preservation of Historic Industrial Structures
- Ian Kerr-Wilson - Restoration of the Hamilton Steam Museum and its Engines
- Phillip Goldsmith and Rod MacDonald - Restoration of the Don Valley Brickworks and its Landscape
- Megan Mainwaring - Commentary on the Redevelopment of the Gooderham and Worts complex, Toronto
- Anthony Butler - The Made in Hamilton Heritage Trail
- Rod LaFontaine - Converting An Abandoned Historic Railway Bridge As Part Of The Tiger Dunlop Heritage Nature Trail
- Alec Barbour - Conservation of Marine Artifacts

Advance Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ (day) _____ (evening) Fax: _____

Conference:	@\$65 per person, ACO members (includes Sat. lunch)	No. of People	_____	\$	_____
	@\$80 per person, non-members (includes Sat. lunch)	No. of People	_____	\$	_____
	@\$25 per person, full-time student (includes Sat. lunch)	No. of People	_____	\$	_____

Dinner Sat. evening:	@\$38 p.p. (cash bar available) Vegetarian option	No. of People	_____	\$	_____
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Sunday Bus Tour:	@\$30 per person (includes lunch)	No. of People	_____	\$	_____
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Sunday Walking Tour:	@ \$5 per person (includes lunch)	No. of People	_____	\$	_____
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Total enclosed: _____

Please make your cheque payable to **The ACO London Region Branch** and mail it with this registration form to:
ACO London Conference
1017 Western Road
London, Ontario
N6G 1G5

You will receive a letter of confirmation if your registration is received prior to March 25, 1999.
For additional information, please call (519) 672-2496 weekday evenings.

Conference Details

1. Conference Facilities

All events for the conference and annual general meeting will take place at the historic **Middlesex County Administration Building** (the Old Court House), 399 Ridout Street North, designed by John Ewart in 1827, and known as London's "somewhat Gothic" castle. Situated at the Forks of the Thames, the location is easy to get to. By car, take the Wellington Road exit north from Hwy 401. Follow Wellington Road to York Street. Turn right on Ridout Street. There is some parking available behind the courthouse as well as across the street.

Book Fair tables are available to anyone at \$30 a table for the Saturday. Call (519) 672-2496 weekday evenings for further information.

Coffee and snacks will be provided in the morning and afternoon. Lunch is included in the registration as are tours of the Old Jail. Advance registration is encouraged (see Registration Form opposite).

2. Opening Reception

An opening reception will be held at the Old Court House on Friday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. John Hogbin of the Ontario Heritage Foundation will make presentations during the reception to owners of three London buildings with OHF Heritage Easements. These buildings are: Eldon House, the Old Court House, and the Old Normal School (South London). Guest speaker, Londoner James Reaney Jr., will also introduce us lightheartedly to London.

3. Dinner Saturday evening

The highlight for Saturday evening is dinner at the London Club, 177 Queens Avenue, built in 1881-2 and designed by architect George Durand (Durand and Tracy). The cost will be \$38 with a cash bar available. There is a vegetarian option available. Time: 6:30 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required.

4. Sunday Tours

On Sunday there is a choice of either a bus tour or a walking tour - both run concurrently - starting at 12 noon at the front of the old Court House. Industrial archaeolo-

gist Chris Andreae will lead the bus tour to the railways and other industrial sites of St. Thomas, while LRAHM Curator Michael Baker will lead the walking tour of Downtown London, concentrating on industrial sites in the core. The cost of the bus tour is \$30 including a boxed lunch. The cost for the walking tour is \$5, also including a boxed lunch. Reservations are required.

5. Accommodations

Idlewyld Inn (519) 433-2891

Located at 36 Grand Avenue in the north end of London's Old South neighbourhood and within a pleasant short walk of the Middlesex County Building, the Idlewyld Inn is an 1878 Queen Anne Revival mansion, but with all the modern amenities. Rates are \$114 (Victorian), \$139 (Suite), \$179 (Jacuzzi) per night including breakfast, but are well worth it.

Station Park Inn 1-800-561-4574

Located just north of the downtown, but close to Richmond Row, the Station Park Inn offers spacious two room suites plus free parking at a rate of \$125 per night. The rooms offer king or double beds plus a sofa bed in the living room.

Tourism London 1-800-265-2602

For other accommodation, including sampling one of several Bed & Breakfasts in the area, please contact Tourism London.

Branch Members

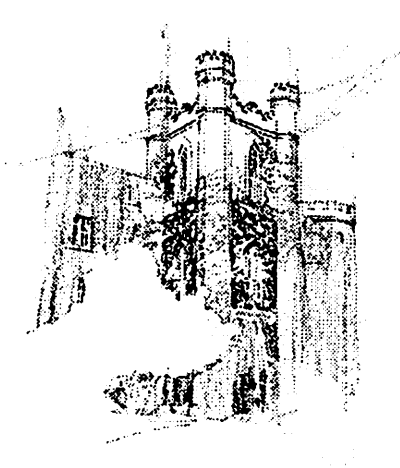
A limited number of members will be volunteering an extra bed in their homes at a cost of \$25. For further information, please call (519) 672-2496 weekday evenings.

Annual General Meeting

To be held **Sunday, April 18 at 10:30 a.m.** at the Middlesex County Building. Coffee will be available.

Annual Branch Presidents' & Advisory Board Meetings

Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. before the Annual General Meeting, meetings of the Presidents and the Advisory Board will take place at the Middlesex County Building. Coffee will be available.





Hartley House, Walkerton

looked old and the wiring had been kind of upgraded, but the biggest problem here was the roof. There were no major surprises. Everything was what I expected."

Hinsperger, who has worked in construction all his life, has seen "older buildings like this that could be fixed or restored to even better than they were before. But to succeed at it you have to have public support." And Hinsperger said he's attracting that support. People from places like Toronto and Kitchener, who haven't been to the Hartley House for 30 or 40 years, are coming back to see the place and appreciate its past.

In June 1998, the building once again made history as Newman's Restaurant, becoming home to the first wine-making operation of its kind. The opportunity to make their own house wine on the premises came from yet another Walkerton business – Price Schonstrom.

Today the premises consist of Newman's Restaurant, the Library and Study (eating and meeting places), the Bruce Room, Midtown Bowl and a lounge appropriately called Harvey's Place. The second floor is now used for storage, and apartments on the third floor are still rented out. In the future Hinsperger would like to expand the Bruce Room

which is currently being used for dances and parties.

Hinsperger sums it up: "I recommend all other buildings like this, if structurally sound, be restored and saved. I feel if you fix up an older building you can attract people and show them what can be done."

Debbie Davidson ☞

Toronto Region (TRAC)

A number of events have been held for members, all well-attended. Walks led by Alec Keefer included a tour of Riverdale neighbourhood on a golden Saturday afternoon in September, culminating in a refreshing cup of tea at an unrestored early cottage. In October our new publication, *The Romanesque Head Office*, received a commendation from Heritage Toronto, in the category of publications relating to the history of Toronto. We urged members to consider attending the ACO colloquium on Eric Arthur. A number who had known the man commented afterwards how much the event would have pleased him. In January, Alec Keefer led tours of the Arthur exhibition at the Market Gallery.

An interesting case in advocacy has arisen with a house at 2549 Dundas Street West. The owner wishes to demolish the property and build seven houses on the lot, which is deep and of irregular shape. The developer's application was turned down at the Committee of Adjustment, a decision immediately appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). Meanwhile, on the historical preservation track, Heritage Toronto staff recommended to their board that the property was not worthy of designation; the Heritage Toronto Board nevertheless voted to recommend designation to Council. Toronto Community Council voted not to designate the property. TRAC was involved in all of this, making presentations at hearings and so on.

Behind the political high wire acts, the house itself is a treasure. It is a vernacular house with no architect involved, built in 1901 by a bricklayer, for his own home. He used a job lot of architectural terra cotta. Not being a man of means, he did not feel impelled to use the terra cotta in the ways in which it had been used in the Queen Anne Revival and Romanesque Revival homes of the Annex; for those houses the terra cotta was individually designed for the job and was fired in the quantities ordered.

The odds and ends lot used here was of various patterns, but not too diverse in size. Economy, and respectability – fitting in with neighbours – would have been uppermost in the builder's mind. Being a bricklayer, he had the advantage that he knew and respected the structural qualities of the material used. The bricklayer solution was to lay string courses of the terra cotta around the house walls, the courses forming two of the lintels to ground floor windows. The patterns are matched, by row and side of the house. No facing material other than brick is used, and the joinery of the windows and doors is very plain and workmanlike. The effect is startlingly

attractive. Something is revealed about the conditions under which the bricklayer worked and the neighbourhood formed. One's thinking about those posh houses in the Annex begins to shift – they seem somehow overbearing, contrived, pretentious. This is what true vernacular does – it helps push one to think outside conventional design assumptions.

For the most part the local people at the OMB hearing were in favour of demolishing the house, seeing it as run-down and attracting undesirables. It felt quite strange to oppose them. Despite their degrees in things like ecological studies and planning, they really could not see the loveliness and appropriateness so obvious in the architecture, preoccupied as they were with cleaning up the neighbourhood socially. Even a granddaughter of the bricklayer involved, who was

certainly on the side of saving the building, asked with evident puzzlement to explain why such a building should be valued architecturally.

It greatly helped our case that the house is mentioned, with a photograph, on page 26 in the 1990 TRAC publication *Terra Cotta: Artful Deceivers*. Here we see clearly that our efforts are cumulative.

Edna Hudson ✎ Windsor Region

Since our last report, our membership has swelled to 42 – the most we have ever had. Despite the disappointments over the past several months, it is gratifying to see new memberships come in, as it means that people support what we are doing.

Glengarda is now, unfortunately, a dead issue. The entire building,

except for the chapel, has been demolished. An addition has been attached to the chapel and that is being used as the sales office for the "Gates of Glengarda". We made one last presentation to City Council when Mady Development was there for site plan approval. While we didn't manage to save the trees that they want to take down (including walnut, horse chestnut and hickory), we felt we had to take one last "kick at the can". For any readers who might be interested, the new development has a website — www.glengarda.com!

The Richmond Landing (aka Norwich Block) issue has still not been resolved. The required leases for the new development, which would replace this 19th century commercial block, have not been signed as of the date of writing. The developer needs leases for 80% of the space to get financing and allow the expropriation of the existing properties to proceed.

We have made several presentations to City Council — reminding them of the significance of this block, especially the Toronto Dominion Bank Building (the only marble building left in Windsor), and of their own Downtown Revitalization Study. We also met with the architect and Chrysler (the principal tenant), trying to at least get the facades incorporated into the new complex. With the Windsor LACAC, we have repeatedly asked City Council not to demolish any of the buildings until such time as a building permit has been issued. We have seen too many heritage buildings come down, only to remain empty lots for several years. At this point, there is not much else we can do.

At a City Council meeting last year, we asked them to pursue special legislation, much like Toronto and several other cities have done, in order to prohibit the demolition of designated buildings until a building permit has been approved for a replacement building on the site. Such legislation also requires that the new building be built within two years, thus preventing



*Heritage Toronto Awards, Winter Garden Theatre. Dr. Marion Joppe (Chair, Heritage Toronto), Councillor Ila Bossons, Edna Hudson, Councillor Michael Prue
Photo courtesy of Heritage Toronto*

the all-too-common parking lot scenario. The resolution was approved by City Council and we will follow up on that.

Last fall, we participated in a roundtable discussion on the future of the Windsor Archives (location, funding, etc.), which is currently being administered by the Library Board. We were one of many organizations and individuals who made presentations. A very favourable report was accepted by City Council in mid-December. We look forward to a positive resolution of the current problems. This issue is a perfect example of how all the interested heritage partners can co-operate and effect a positive change.

For the past couple of years, the City of Windsor has been reviewing the Official Plan. Several sub-committees took part and two of our Windsor Branch Executive were part of the Heritage sub-committee. This committee insisted on information from other cities and tougher wording and the draft plan was made available in November. We have been asked for our comments and will be forwarding them by the end of February.

On April 29, the Windsor LACAC will be presenting a workshop on Storefront Conservation. Windsor Region Branch is a co-sponsor, along with the St. Clair Region Society of Architects. The workshop has been timed to coincide with the Ontario Association of Architects convention that weekend.

We are really looking forward to having the ACO on the Internet — we are convinced that that will make a big difference to us all in the coming years.

One does what one can. In the words of Eric Arthur, speaking about his experience in Toronto: "I believe in miracles. ... In this city, you have to believe in miracles." This could apply to almost any city in North America. And miracles do happen — even if they entail a heck of a lot of hard work!

Pat Malicki ☞

The Advisory Board in 1998

The Advisory Board, which provides preliminary conservation advice to property owners, municipalities and branches of the ACO, produced 14 technical reports in 1998. The program also offered information and advice by way of telephone, fax and mail communications. As well, Advisory Board members and other representatives of the ACO met Ministry of Transportation staff last June to discuss ways the Conservancy could assist the Ministry in preserving historic buildings and landscapes.

Reports completed in 1998 are illustrated below, and the names of their authors listed. The accompanying map shows those places the Advisory Board reached by telephone calls, faxes and letters.

Advisory Board Reports

105 Danforth Road, Grafton
Su Murdoch and Gerald Sproule

Palmer House, Pickering
Phillip Carter

"Barracks", Cobourg
André Scheinman

Northumberland County Model School, Cobourg
David Eckler

Defence Industries Ltd., Ajax
Peter Stewart

Whitehall, Cobourg
Phillip Carter

Boadicea Hotel, Waterdown
Anthony Butler and Chris Andreae

St. Ann's Church, Penetanguishene
Ian McGillivray

Ingleside, Shanty Bay
Denis Héroux and Owen Scott

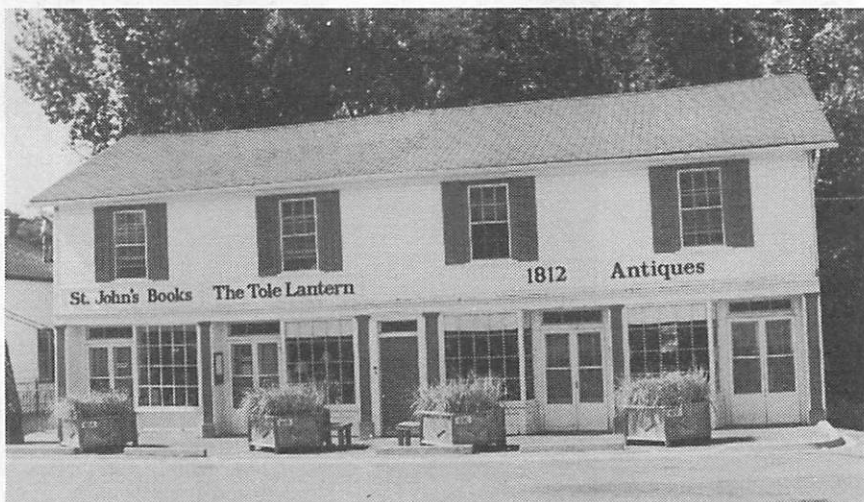
Kettleby Bridge, Kettleby
Daphne Van-Ham and Eric Jokinen

Springbank School, Springbank
John Rutledge

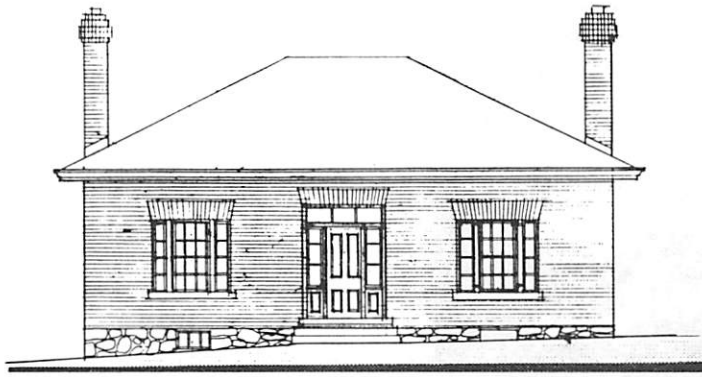
Bellevue, Hamilton
Alan Seymour

St. Francis de Sales Church, Ajax
Catherine Nasmith

18 Wendover Road, Toronto
Stephen King



105 Danforth Road, Grafton. Photo: Patricia Poisson



Palmer House, Pickering (as restored). Sketch: Philip Carter



Palmer House, Pickering (today). Photo: Philip Carter



"Barracks," Cobourg. Photo: André Scheinman



*Northumberland County Model School, Cobourg.
Photo: David Eckler*



Defence Industries Ltd., Ajax. Photo: Peter Stewart



Whitehall, Cobourg. Photo: Phillip Carter



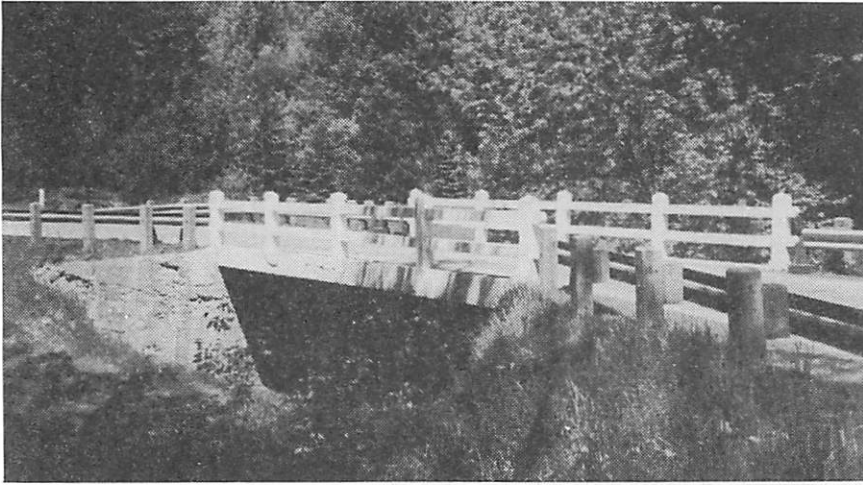
Boadicea Hotel, Waterdown. Photo: Leah Wallace



St. Ann's Church, Penetanguishene. Photo: Ian McGillivray



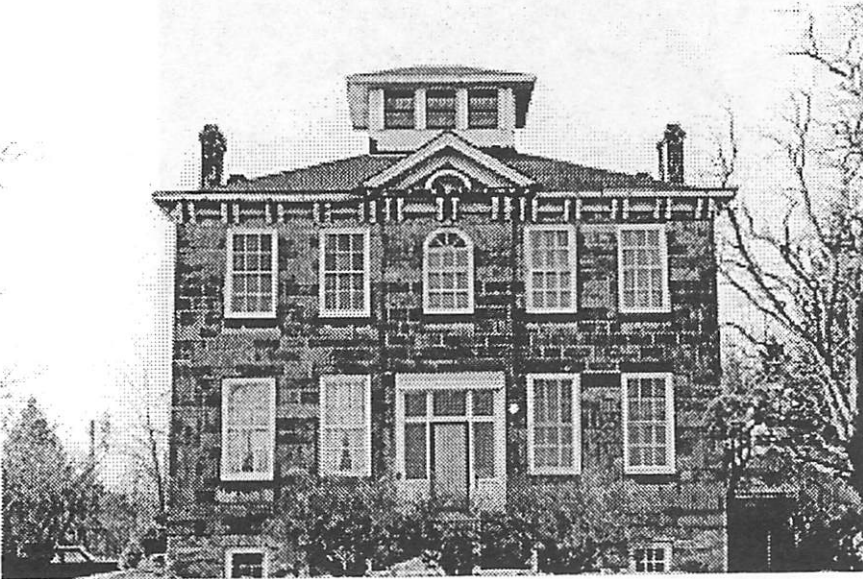
Ingleside, Shanty Bay. Photo: Ruth Juriansz



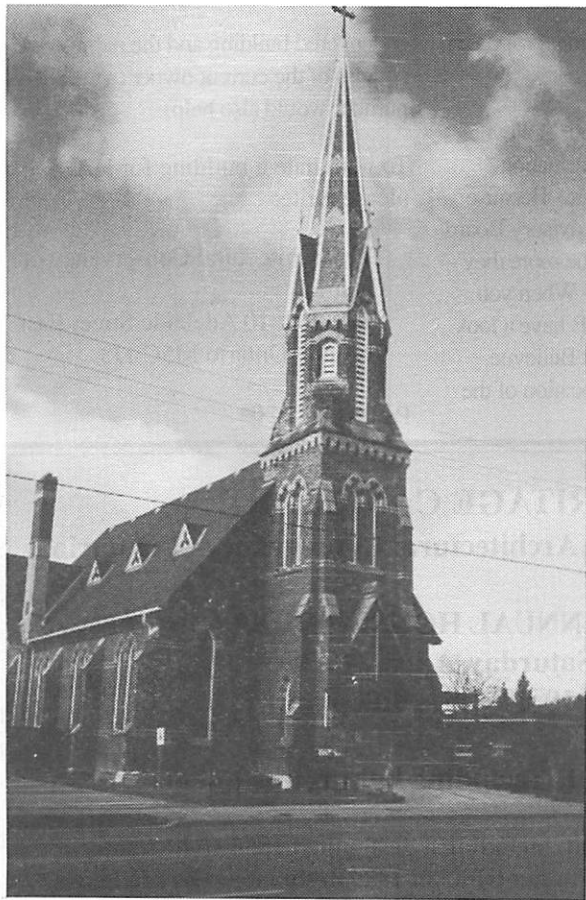
Kettleby Bridge, Kettleby. Photo: Daphne Van-Ham



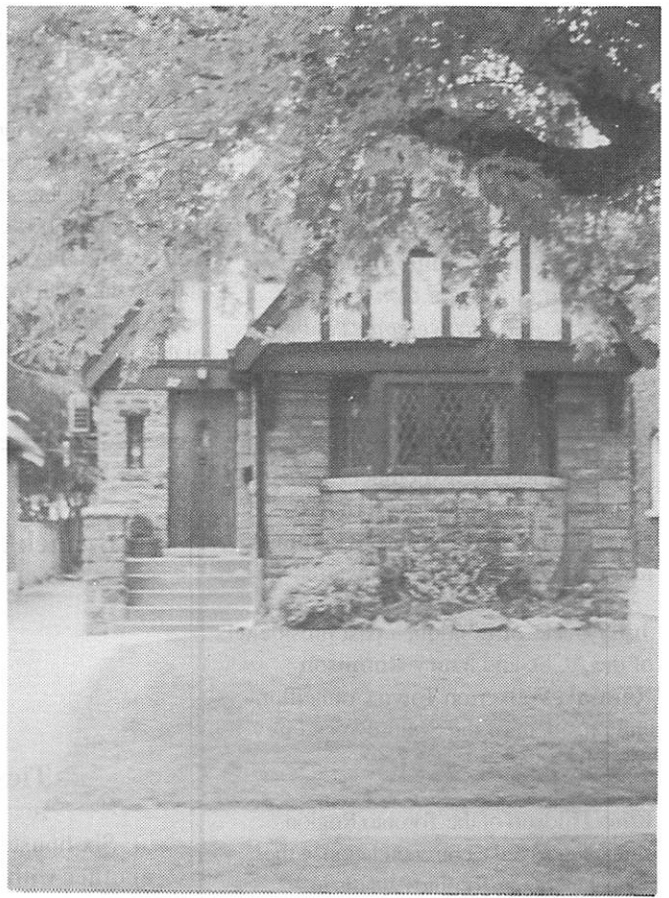
*Springbank School, Springbank.
Photo: Ian McKillop*



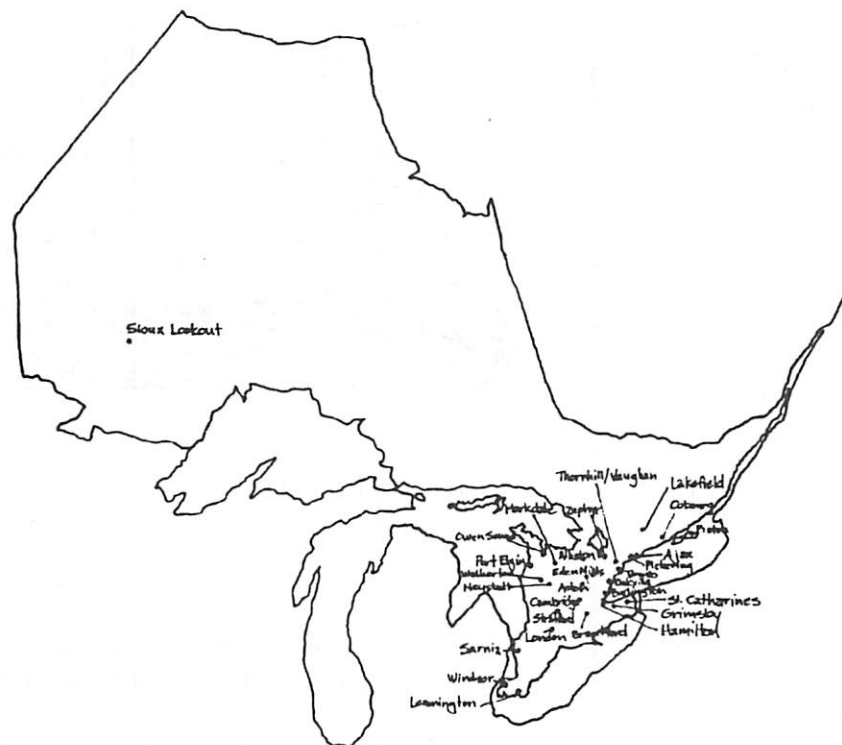
Bellevue, Hamilton. Photo: City of Hamilton



*St. Francis de Sales Church, Ajax
Photo: Catherine Nasmith*



18 Wendover Road, Toronto. Photo: David Nightingale



Places Assisted via Telephone, Fax or Letter

Map: Scott Valens

News from and about ACO Members

[Editor's Note: This is a new section featuring news and information from and about individual Conservancy members. ACORN welcomes submissions from our readers.]

More Awards!

The following ACO members were recipients of the Ontario Heritage Foundation's 1998 Heritage Community Recognition Program awards:

Julia Beck, of London, a past president of the ACO; and **Mary Robinson Ramsay**, Walkerton Town Councillor and president of the South Bruce Grey Branch.

Edna Hudson of the Toronto Region Branch received a commendation at the annual Heritage Toronto Awards in October. The commendation was made in recognition of TRAC's recent publication, *The Romanesque Head Office*. ☛

HALP Update

The Historic Architecture Linking Program got a major boost when Provincial Council engaged Leah Wallace of Waterdown to design a web site for the ACO, launch it on the Internet, and update the site over the period of a year.

With the goal of having the web site up and running by spring 1999, we will need to start collecting data on endangered buildings. It is our plan to have ACO Advisory Board members compile one-page descriptions of individual buildings on the model of Bellevue (see ACORN Summer 1998; at time of writing, Bellevue is still available).

We are asking everyone to think about candidate buildings for the program. A building will qualify for HALP if it meets three criteria: 1) the building has architectural merit; 2) it is vacant and is unlikely to sell to a sympathetic owner in the near future; and, 3) it is, or may be, threatened

with neglect, demolition or inappropriate alteration.

As we discovered through our Bellevue test case, compilation of information about the buildings takes time. Because volunteer members of the Advisory Board will be collecting the data, the more they have to start with the better. When you suggest a building for HALP, have a look at the sheet we published on Bellevue.

We need at least the exact location of the

endangered building and the name and address of the current owner (a telephone number would also help).

To nominate a building for HALP, please write:

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Suite 204, 10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

Paul Dilse ☛

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE A Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

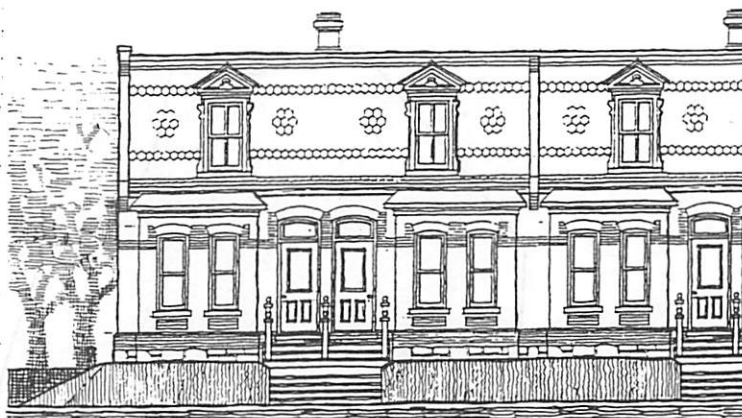
ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, April 24, 1999

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15 including light refreshments

Six houses to visit, including a designated 1850 stone home, another with gingerbread trim, an 1885 designated terrace house, a 1904 round-turreted red brick home, a square-turreted yellow brick house and an example of the work of architect Ray Hall.



St. Andrew's Terrace, Cambridge (1885)

Tickets available by mail from:

Ms. E. Miller
26 Oak Street
Cambridge, ON
N1R 4K6

Please add \$1.00 per order for handling and make cheques payable to "Heritage Cambridge."

Need more information? Call (519) 621-4461 or 622-2988.

Tickets are limited to 700 so order early.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

Application for New Members

A Note about the Organization and Your Membership

As the ACO is structured, Provincial Council offers programs across Ontario while each of ten Branches runs programs in their geographic area. Provincial Council offers technical advice through the Advisory Board, organizes workshops, publishes ACORN, assembles the annual conference program, writes letters of support, and provides a head office function. Branch programs vary from Branch to Branch. You can request a description of Branch programs by attaching a note to this application.

You can choose to be a member of the ACO either through Provincial Council (an Ontario member) or through one of the Branches (a Branch member).

All memberships are tax-creditable. All members receive ACORN and a discount on registration fees at the annual conference.

STEP 1

Please complete the form below.

Mr./Ms/Miss/Mrs./Dr./No Title - First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organization's Name if applicable _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Fax _____

STEP 2

Please circle your choice of options A or B.

- A. I would like to become an Ontario member of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and not be affiliated with any Branch. All my annual dues will support province-wide programs.

Categories of Membership and Annual Dues - Check one.

☐ individual - \$ 30.00

☐ household - \$ 35.00

☐ organization - \$ 40.00

☐ full-time student - \$ 20.00

In addition to my Ontario membership, I would like to make a tax-creditable donation in the amount of \$ _____.

- B. I would rather be a member of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario through the Branch closest to me or another of my choice. A portion of my annual dues will support province-wide programs.

Branch _____

(Do not include payment with option B. See below for instructions.)

STEP 3

Please return this form to: The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

Suite 204, 10 Adelaide Street East

Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

If you chose option A, please enclose a cheque made payable to "The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario."

If you chose option B, we will forward your application to the Branch of your choice, and the Branch will bill you.

ACO Branches

Quinte Region
Cobourg

Port Hope
Toronto Region

Hamilton Region
Heritage Cambridge

North Waterloo
South Bruce Grey

London Region
Windsor Region

Second Shipley Study Results Now In

As reported in the last issue of ACORN (Summer 1998), the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation retained Dr. Robert Shipley of the University of Waterloo to update his pioneering 1992 study of the effect of heritage designation on property values. The following is a brief summary of his report.

Purpose and goals of the study

- The study was designed to examine the assertion that historic designation of properties under the Ontario Heritage Act has negative economic consequences and a negative impact on the values of those properties.
- For the purpose of this research the actual price that buyers were willing to pay for properties, rather than the assessed or appraised value, was used to establish the value history trend or price trajectory of the subject properties.
- The value history trends of designated properties were compared to ambient market trends within the same communities.

Scope of the study

- A total of 2707 properties in 24 Ontario communities were investigated in what is believed to be the largest study of its kind ever undertaken in North America.
- Value history trends over a period of up to twenty years were examined with special reference to the particular periods that might have been affected by heritage designation.
- 87 volunteers in 31 different communities contributed to the work.

Major findings of the study

- The majority of individually designated properties, approximately 74%, performed better than

average or average in their value history trend when compared to the average property value trend in their communities.

- It was found that the rate of sales among individually designated properties was equal to or greater than the general rate of sales of properties within their communities.
- The rate of sales among designated properties did not appear to be affected by how many properties in a given community were designated.
- Designated properties tend to resist downturns in the ambient market.
- Data was collected for designated districts in three communities; the value history trends of properties in one of these were 100% average or above average while the trends in the other two communities were approximately 50% at or above average.

Analysis of the study findings

- Designation of properties under the Ontario Heritage Act does not in itself have any demonstrable negative affect on the performance

of those properties.

- There is, in fact, a positive correlation between designation and an enhancement in the rate of increase in property values when measured against the average trend in property values within a given community.
- There is a distinct and generally robust market in designated heritage properties which is demonstrated by the facts that: a) they generally perform well in the market; b) the rate of sale among designated properties is as good or better than the ambient market trends; and c) that the values of heritage properties tend to be resistant to downturns in the general market.
- As with other properties, the performance of heritage properties in the marketplace is probably affected by other planning considerations such as zoning of the properties themselves and the permitted adjacent land uses.

For further information on the study contact Mary Lou Evans, LACAC Co-ordinator, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, at (416) 314-7131. ☎

SOUTH BRUCE GREY FUNDRAISER

Stonyground Garden presents a "Ceilidh" on Saturday, June 12, in support of the restoration of Walkerton's Victoria Jubilee Hall.

The gardens will open at 2 p.m. Owner and gardener Douglas Chambers will give a talk about the gardens at 3 p.m. A performance of Baroque and Cape Breton music by Puirt à Baroque will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a buffet at 7 p.m.

Stonyground is located 2 kilometres west of Walkerton on Bruce County Road #2 (watch for sign). The event is \$40 per person (GST not charged) and the price includes a \$15 donation for which a tax receipt will be issued.

Last year's event at Stonyground was sold out, so act now!

Send your cheque made payable to South Bruce Grey ACO to:
South Bruce Grey ACO
Victoria Jubilee Hall Project
Box 369
Walkerton, Ontario
N0G 2V0

For more information call (519) 881-3413.



Coming Events

ACO Conference and Annual General Meeting – April 16-18, 1999 in London – see centrefold in this issue.

Hamilton Region Events – see advertisement in this issue.

Heritage Cambridge Annual House Tour – Saturday, April 24, 1999 – see advertisement in this issue.

Storefront Conservation Workshop – Thursday, April, 29, 1999 – Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation Workshop at the Duff-Baby House, Windsor. Hosted by the Windsor Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and co-sponsored by ACO Windsor Region Branch and the St. Clair Region Society of Architects. For further information contact Nancy Morand at (519) 255-6281 ext. 6336.

The Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants (CAPHC) Annual Symposium – Sunday, May 16, 1999 at Parkwood Estate and Gardens in Oshawa. Parkwood is the former residence of Col. R.S. McLaughlin (founder of what became General Motors Canada). Darling & Pearson designed the 55-room mansion in 1915-1916. Designers of successive phases of the gardens included Harries & Hall in the teens, H.B. and L.A. Dunington-Grubb in the twenties, John Lyle in the thirties, and George Tanaka in the sixties. For information and registration package contact: James Gardiner, CAPHC Administrative Assistant. Tel: (416) 534-1727 Fax: (416) 534-2147 E-mail: gardinerj@willings.on.ca

Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) Provincial Conference – May 28-30, 1999 – "Making Heritage Pay." Kingston City Hall, Kingston. Hosted by Heritage Kingston Committee. For information contact: Mary Stephens, 763 Leroy Avenue, London, Ontario N5Y 4G8. Tel: (519) 439-3373.

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation Annual Conference – June 2-5, 1999 – "Borderlands: The Shared Canadian and U.S. Experience of Landscape." Niagara-on-the-Lake. For information contact: Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, School of Landscape Architecture, University of Guelph. Fax: (519) 767-1686 E-mail: nellwand@la.uoguelph.ca

London Region Branch 25th Annual Geranium Walk – Sunday, June 7, 1999 from 1 -5 p.m. Historic Woodfield. Information: (519) 645-2845.

South Bruce Grey Fundraiser – Saturday, June 12, 1999 – Stonyground, Walkerton – see advertisement in this issue.

Port Hope Branch Events – For further information or tickets write to ACO, Port Hope Branch, Box 563, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z4.

Trillium Walk – May 8 & 9, 1999 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. In aid of the restoration of the east wall of St. Mark's Church, Port Hope. Tickets \$10 per person; \$20 per family. For more information call A.K. Sculthorpe at (905) 885-6960.

Port Hope Branch Gala Fundraising Dinner – June 18, 1999. In honour of Sotheby's, Batterwood, Canton (north of Port Hope). Tickets \$75.00 per person at Gothic Splendour, 45 Walton Street, Port Hope.

"Heirloom Discovery Day" – June 19, 1999. Sotheby's antique, art and treasure identification day at Beatrice Strong School, 90 Roseglan Road, Port Hope. \$15 per item. Reservations required. Call the Capitol Theatre 885-1071 or 1-800 434-5092.

Garden Tour and Tea – July 10, 1999. Various locations, Port Hope.

Port Hope House Tour – October 2, 1999.

Greetings from Minister Bassett

November 14, 1998

Dear Friends,

As Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the **65th Anniversary of the founding of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.**

Your celebration marks the importance of architectural preservation in Ontario and the continuing effort by the Conservancy to save and preserve the best from Ontario's past. Your organization's splendid work plays an important role in educating the public.

I understand this celebration coincides with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor Eric Ross Arthur, a founding member of the Conservancy. I am sure he would be delighted with your continuing success.

Congratulations to the many volunteers, organizers and administrators for all their efforts in bringing this event together. Your support and commitment are greatly appreciated.

Best wishes for a memorable and rewarding 65th Anniversary.

Sincerely,

Isabel Bassett
Minister

THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO HAMILTON REGION BRANCH

Architectural Events and Tours 1999

1. McMaster Campus Walk, Sunday May 16, 1999. 1:00 PM

A tour exploring the diverse architecture and planning history of the McMaster University campus from the historic collegiate gothic University Hall to the modern Medical Centre. Meet in front of the McMaster Museum of Art at the corner of University Ave. & Stirling St. Suggested donation: \$2.00

2. Mansions of the Durand, Sunday June 6, 1999. 1:00 PM

A walking tour through the historic Durand neighbourhood featuring some of the city's most prestigious homes such as Inglewood and Ravenscliffe. Meet in Durand Park at the corner of Charlton & Park streets. Suggested donation: \$2.00

3. Made In Hamilton... Industrial Architecture, Sunday July 11, 1999. 1:00 PM

A bus tour of Hamilton's industrial core to discover this city's rich industrial heritage and some of the city's most interesting, significant, and under-appreciated buildings. Tour Guide: Rob Kristofferson, Project Co-ordinator for the Made In Hamilton Heritage Project. Cost: \$5.00. For tickets please contact the Branch. Space is limited.

4. Theatres & Concerts Halls, Sunday August 15, 1999. 1:00 PM

A walking tour tracing the history of theatre in downtown Hamilton from churches and meeting halls to the huge theatres such as the Tivoli & The Grand Opera House and finally to Hamilton Place. Meet in front of the DuMaurier Centre at the corner of King William St. and Ferguson Ave. Suggested donation \$2.00

5. Downtown & Gore Park Walk, Sunday September 19, 1999. 1:00 PM

Downtown and Gore Park have been Hamilton's focal point throughout its history and therefore provide examples of architecture from all periods of the last 150 years. They include one of the best examples in the country of a sheet metal facade, as well as excellent examples of cast iron and terra cotta detailing. This tour will include landmarks such as the Lister Block, the Dominion Public Building (new Courthouse), and Victoria Hall. Meet at the statue of Queen Victoria in Gore Park at King and James streets. Suggested donation \$2.00

6. Made In Hamilton, Industrial Heritage Trail & Annual General Meeting, September 1999, Date & location T.B.A. Lecture by Rob Kristofferson.

A presentation of this interesting new project to document Hamilton's rich industrial heritage. Rob Kristofferson will describe a design for a heritage trail tying together many historic industrial sites that contribute to this unique history. Suggested donation: \$2.00

7. John Lyle's Hamilton, An Exhibition at The Art Gallery of Hamilton, October 1999 (tentative)

An exhibition exploring the life and work of architect John Lyle, a Hamilton native and designer of local Hamilton landmarks such as Central Presbyterian Church, the High Level Bridge and the Gage Park fountain. In partnership with the Hamilton Society of Architects. FREE

8. John Lyle's Hamilton, A Lecture at The Art Gallery of Hamilton, Thursday October 21, 1999. 7:00 PM (tentative)

An illustrated lecture about the life and contribution of architect John Lyle to the profession and the City of Hamilton. In partnership with the Hamilton Society of Architects. FREE

CALL (905) 308-9790 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONFIRMATION

1999 Fundraising Campaign

I am pleased to report that, thanks to the generosity of individual donors and corporations, we reached our 1998 budget target for keeping current programs going. But when we set our budget early last year, we did not anticipate our provincial operating grant would be less than last year's. Nor had we planned on supporting a referral system for vacant heritage properties at risk — architect Alan Seymour's great idea.

So, at the beginning of 1999, Provincial Council was faced with the decision whether to delay start-up of the referral system or to take a small leap of faith. At its January meeting, Council approved expenditure on a web site for advertising Ontario's many endangered historic buildings and publicizing the other programs of the ACO.

The hope is that the web site will draw new people and business to the organization. But to succeed in our aims we must continue to rely on the help of our current family of donors. Donations in support of the web site and referral system would be most welcome.

What I would like to see is more of you who are already familiar with the ACO giving something each year in addition to your membership. For a long time, membership dues from the Branches have not been enough to finance the work of the ACO across Ontario.

Our treasurer, Turney Wong, tells me that those of you in the middle-range tax bracket receive a net benefit from giving any donation of \$100 or more after you have made donations totalling \$200. So it isn't as hard to give as it might seem.

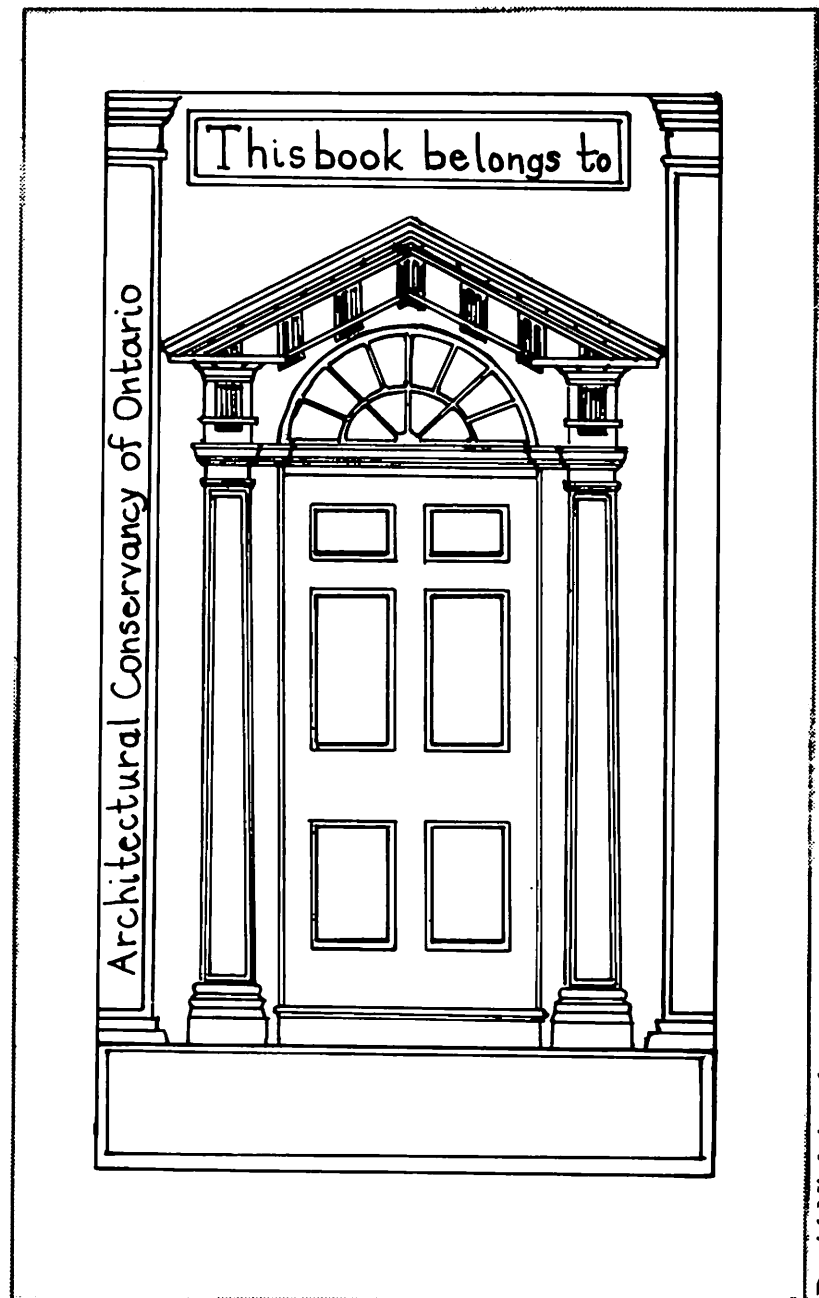
Nowadays, we are needed more than ever. The ACO is often the only independent voice left in defence of our distinctive buildings and landscapes. It is most distressing that the organization is starved for funds.

Once again, I'll be writing our donors for their support of the good work you see described in ACORN. Why don't you beat me to it, and send your contribution today?

Please send your 1999 donation to:

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Suite 204, 10 Adelaide Street East
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Attention: A.K. Sculthorpe

A.K. Sculthorpe
*Past President A.K. Sculthorpe is
Chair of the Fundraising Committee*
20



David Nightingale

ACO bookplate, given to donors contributing \$50 or more in 1998

1998 Campaign Donors

We have the honour of acknowledging those listed below who contributed to the success of our 1998 campaign. We would also like to take this opportunity and thank those who supported our 65th Anniversary Gala Dinner last November.

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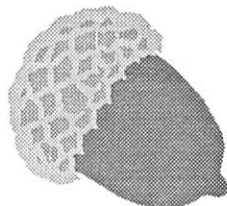
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